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John Richards Junr. F.S.A.



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HISTORIC PROLOGUES.

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HISTORIC PROLOGUES; $\frac{4340}{6074}$

OR,

CHARACTERS AND EVENTS,

FROM THE CONQUEST

TO THE

22

DEATH OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

WITH NOTES.

BY THE REV. JOHN DAVIES, A. M.,

ST. MARY HALL, OXFORD.

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THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

AND THE GREAT NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

ACTING MANAGERS

AND GENERAL MANAGERS

OF THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY

LONDON:

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Richard J.

Presented me by W. S. Higgs Esq. F.R.S.

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TO HIS MAJESTY,

THE KING.

22

SIRE,

Like Your Illustrious Father, born
and educated in this renowned Country,
glorying in the Name of Briton and adding
Lustre to the Throne of Your Ancestors, the

pages of History brighten with Your Reign. With humble confidence—inspired by the Urbanity and Condescension of so Enlightened a Sovereign—a gleaner in the field of British history has ventured to solicit the Royal Favor to a subject, ever dear to the Heart of a Patriot King.

Such Patronage Your Majesty has deigned to bestow, by permitting this dedication to bear Your August Name.

Your Mind, Sire, highly cultivated and enlarged by a long acquaintance with public and with literary men, would revolt at any tributary offering, save this of Allegiance, of Gratitude, and of Respect; and with these sentiments, Sire, I humbly subscribe myself,

Your Majesty's,

Faithful and devoted Subject,

JOHN DAVIES.

PREFACE.

To collect the scattered materials of History, and bring them within the reach of memory, is the object of the present work. How far the author has succeeded, must be left to the judgment of a discerning Public.

Camden, Rapin, Smollet, Hume, Goldsmith, Gibbon, Clarendon, and Bolingbroke, are the authorities cited.

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HISTORIC PROLOGUES.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR,

NATURAL SON OF ROBERT DUKE OF NORMANDY.

[A. D. 1066.—*Reigned 20 Years.*]

WHERE Hasting's Cliff o'erlooks the main,
 Harold's discomfited, and slain ;
 Threats and tyranny severe,
 Mark the Conqueror's career ;
 Lo ! from the Humber to the Tees,
 Wide wasting ruin he decrees,
 And by Heaven's splendour swore,
Northumbria's race shou'd be no more !
 Forest laws terrific spring,
 Warning curfews nightly ring ;
 Doomsday's memorable book,
 A scrutinizing inquest took ;
 The native language of the land,
 From Court * was banish'd by command ;
 —But in this desolating hour,
 One privilege escaped his pow'r,
 Juries † by verdict did decide,
 Britain's bulwark ! Britain's pride !

* William prohibited the use of the English language in the Courts of Law.

† Trial by Jury was introduced into England by the Saxons about the 9th century, and is supposed to date its origin from Greece. Courts of Exchequer and Chancery established. The four *terms* of law adjusted. Sheriffs appointed, and sealing of writs introduced.

NOTES ON WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

FREQUENT insurrections on the part of the English, and their intended massacre of the Normans on Ash-Wednesday, only exasperated the mind of the Conqueror, and enabled him to enrich his followers by confiscation and plunder. On one occasion he gave orders that the hands of those who disputed his authority should be cut off, and their eyes put out; after which he dispersed them through the country as a terror to the people. Among the victims of his treachery, were Edwin, Earl of Chester, and Earl Walthoff.

The concluding part of William's life was embittered by the misconduct of his son Robert, who laid claim to Normandy, and finally resorted to open rebellion. In a skirmish under the walls of Gerbury, the father and son were personally opposed to each other. Accident revealed the secret, at a moment when the king was dismounted, and in the most imminent danger. Robert dropped his sword, fell on his knees, and implored forgiveness.

It is not unworthy of remark, that the same commander who formerly led an army of Normans to conquer England, now returned with an army of English to subdue Normandy.

Edgar Atheling, the *Saxon* heir to the crown, and whose sister was married to Malcolm, prevailed on the Scotch to assert *his* claim. When William met them in the field, instead of a battle he proposed a negotiation. Edgar was included in the treaty, and passed the remainder of his life in privacy and retirement.

Gregory VII., was the first who assumed the power to dispose of kingdoms; and it was he who suffered the Emperor Henry VI., of Germany to wait three days at the palace-gates before he would admit him to an audience.

WILLIAM RUFUS,

SECOND SON OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

[A. D. 1087.—*Reigned 12 Years.*]

RUFUS, a ruffian in fight,
 Obtain'd the crown, his brother's right ;
 Wearing the diadem secure,
 In spite of primogeniture ;
 Robert to arms indignant flies,
 But soon submits to compromise.
 Plunder'd, imposed on, and betray'd,
 A mortgage of his Dukedom's made,
 To follow Peter's wild crusade.

Rufus the northern frontier sweeps,
 And for her Malcolm Scotland weeps.

Sworn with impiety, and pride,
 Rufus, Omnipotence defied ! *
 Taunting, with blasphemy and scorn,
 The Pilot's terror of the storm.
 —A random shot from Tyrrel's bow,
 Laid unrelenting Rufus low.

* Hastening to suppress an insurrection in Normandy, William set sail in a storm, telling the crew that they never heard of a king that was drowned.

The Tower, Westminster-hall, and London-bridge built.

NOTES ON WILLIAM RUFUS.

TRANSIENT broils and unsuccessful treasons were in this reign sunk in the tumult of Crusades, which engrossed the attention of Europe, and remain singular monuments of human folly. Peter the Hermit, a native of Amiens in Picardy, revived the project of leading the armies of Christendom against the Infidels, and driving them out of Palestine.

Urban the Second, who then held the Pontificate, summoned a council at Clermont. An expedition was instantly resolved on, the whole assembly exclaiming with one voice, "It is the will of God!" These words, considered as the result of divine influence, were afterwards employed as a motto for the sacred standard.

Persons of all ranks flew to arms, and, trusting to the supernatural interposition of Heaven for a supply of their wants, made no provision for subsistence on their march. Driven to obtain by plunder, what they vainly expected from miracles, their *first* fury discharged itself on the *Jews*, but when Jews were not to be found, the work of pillage continued without distinction. This precarious mode of supply was followed by disease. The pictures of famine and pestilence are uniformly disgusting; and imagination may suggest the nature of their sufferings and their resources.

From the incredible number of seven hundred thousand, these fanatic adventurers were reduced to twenty thousand when they reached the gates of Jerusalem. After a siege of five weeks the city was carried by assault, and the garrison and inhabitants put to the sword. Courage protected not the brave, nor submission the timid!

Rufus, during his reign, had considerable altercations with Lanfranc and Anselm, Archbishops of Canterbury, concerning the right of investiture, the celibacy of the clergy, and the legitimate power of the Pope over *that* of the sovereign.

HENRY THE FIRST, SURNAMED BEAUCLERC,

FOURTH SON OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

[A. D. 1100.—*Reigned 35 Years.*]

HAL BEAUCLERC mounted Britain's throne,
 Tho' Robert's claims to all were known :
 After valiant efforts tried,
 The rightful monarch, set aside, }
 A blind and aged prisoner died ! }
 Fruitless the fraternal tie,
 To shorten his captivity !

Cruel as Henry's deeds appear,
 Britons his memory revere :
 Indulgent charters he bestow'd ;
 Abolish'd, too, the feudal code ;
 From lethargy awoke the law,
 And kept licentiousness in awe.

Hal wed Matilda* to combine,
 The Saxon with the Norman line ;
 Their *only* son,—(fair Maude to save !)
 Sunk beneath the stormy wave !
 Wretched Henry from that day,
 Became to poignant grief a prey.

* Niece to Edgar Atheling.

NOTES ON HENRY THE FIRST.

HENRY wisely foresaw that a crown usurped against justice would not be secure without endeavouring to gain the affections of his subjects. He therefore made concessions in favour of the church, and granted his barons and military tenants the power of bequeathing by will their money and personal estates. Profiting by his brother Robert's indiscretions, he landed in Normandy, and, after a faint struggle, took possession of the kingdom. On his return to England, he imprisoned his unfortunate brother in Cardiff castle for the remainder of his life ;—a period of twenty-six years !

His superior eloquence and judgment would have given him an ascendancy, even had he been born in a private station ; and his personal bravery was unquestionable. His literary pursuits, which acquired him the name of Beauclerc, or the Scholar, abated nothing of the activity and vigilance of his government. Though the learning of that age was more calculated to *corrupt* than *improve* the understanding, his natural good sense protected him from the pedantry and superstition of the times. Susceptible of the sentiments of friendship, as well as of resentment, his ambition might have been esteemed moderate, but for the injustice and severity of his conduct towards his brother.

Henry had a daughter named Matilda, first married to the Emperor Henry V., and afterwards to Geoffry Plantagenet, of the house of Anjou. The fruit of this last marriage was Henry, who on the death of Stephen succeeded to the throne.

Maude, Countess of Perche, who perished on her return from Normandy was a *natural* daughter. Henry left a numerous family of illegitimate children, of whom Robert, Earl of Gloucester, was the chief.

STEPHEN,

SON OF STEPHEN, EARL OF BLOIS, BY ADELA, DAUGHTER OF
WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

[A. D. 1135.—*Reigned* 18 Years.]

STEPHEN seiz'd the regal rein,
Mindless of Matilda's claim ;
Who, by Gloucester's council led,
To Count Plantagenet was wed ;
Fierce the conflicts which ensued,
Each alternately subdued :
Castles* multiplied arise,
For defence, or enterprise.

From Stephen, valour's darling son,
The palm of victory is won ;
And on the throne, a rival queen,
Of haughty dignity is seen.

Few minds, alas ! can bear the weight,
Imposed by eminence of state :
Her pride, intolerable grown,
Hurl'd Matilda from the throne !
And Stephen, from a dungeon led,
Reign'd in proud Matilda's stead ;
—At length by compact 'twas agreed,
Matilda's son shou'd next succeed.

* Above eleven hundred were built.

NOTES ON STEPHEN.

THE first acts of an usurper are always popular. Stephen, in order to secure his tottering throne, passed a charter, granting several privileges to the different orders of the state. To the nobility, a permission to hunt in their own forests; to the clergy, certain powers which had been suspended; and, to the people, a restoration of the laws of Edward the Confessor. To fix himself more securely, he took possession of the royal treasures at Winchester, and the Pope ratified his title in consideration of receiving a part of the money.

Matilda, asserting her claim to the crown, and assisted by Robert Duke of Gloucester, natural son of the late king, landed in Sussex with a feeble retinue, and took possession of Arundel Castle. An instance here occurs of generosity and politeness in Stephen, which it would be uncandid not to relate. The place was immediately besieged by the King's troops, and on the point of surrendering, when it was represented to Stephen, that as the castle belonged to the Queen dowager, it would be contrary to the established laws of respect due to royalty to take it *by force*. Matilda was not only permitted to come forth in safety, but Stephen, with chivalrous attention, conducted her to Bristol. Fortune soon after changed sides, and Stephen himself was taken prisoner, but not till he had defended himself to the last extremity.

Matilda was now formally crowned, but her imperious temper became her ruin. Stephen was again recognised as King, and exchanged his dungeon for a throne.

A new antagonist appeared in Henry, *Matilda's son*, who had now attained the age of sixteen, and had already given proofs of valour and policy. A treaty reconciled all parties, and as Eustace, the only son of Stephen, was dead, it was agreed that Stephen should remain in quiet possession during his life, and that Henry should be his successor.

HENRY THE SECOND,

SON OF GEOFFREY OF ANJOU, BY MATILDA, DAUGHTER OF HENRY I.

[A. D. 1154.—*Reigned 34 Years.*]

STAR of Plantagenet! arise,
 Annihilate thy enemies!
 Level the baronial tower,
 Check the stride of papal power;
 Drive mercenaries from thy shore;
 On foreign aid rely no more;
 Bid ermin'd law *, with balanc'd hand,
 Make her circuit through the land;
 Scotland, Wales, Hibernia, pay
 Submission to thy sov'reign sway!

Tho' fam'd for bravery in arms;
 Tho' fam'd for love of beauty's † charms,
 Yet Henry meanly stoop'd to whine,
 A pilgrim scourg'd at Becket's shrine!
 —To curse the remnant of his days,
 Rebellion's voice his *children* raise.

Long by adverse fortune cross'd,
 In listlessness, and languor lost,
 Henry, once the warrior's pride,
 In moping melancholy died!

* Judges first appointed to go the circuit.

† Rosamond.

This æra boasted the Anacreon of England, Walter Mapes, who supported in humorous and satirical verse, the cause of the married clergy against Pope Innocent.

NOTES ON HENRY THE SECOND.

IN this Prince centred all claims, both Norman and Saxon, to the crown of England. His father was Geoffrey of Anjou, who, from wearing a sprig of broom in his bonnet, was called Plantagenet; a name illustrious in English chronicles. Henry was so dotingly fond of his eldest son, that he had him crowned during his life. Insolence and ingratitude were the reward of his extravagant affection;—this worthless youth died in the flower of his age.

Henry began his reign by humbling the power of the Barons, who, entrenched in their fortified mansions, assumed a tone of defiance inconsistent with the public safety. For the better administration of justice, the kingdom was divided into circuits. Mercenary soldiers were dismissed, and charters were granted to many towns, by virtue of which the citizens acknowledged no superior but the King himself. From this æra, the government of feudal tyranny was impaired, and the ground-work of English liberty begun.

To divert the minds of the people from the atrocious murder of Becket, Henry planned an expedition, which led to the subjugation of Ireland, then consisting of five principalities, and each governed by its own respective monarch. This island has ever since remained an appendage to the English crown.

The story of Fair Rosamond, daughter of Lord Clifford, is of a nature peculiarly romantic. Passionately beloved by the King, and mortally hated by the Queen (Eleanor,) this paragon of beauty was artfully concealed in a labyrinth at Woodstock. Jealousy and revenge were too ingenious for love, and a visit from the wife was fatal to the mistress.

Henry's declining years were embittered by the unnatural rebellion of his own children, encouraged by the mother; and he was often heard to mutter the most awful maledictions on himself, and those around him!

RICHARD THE FIRST, CŒUR DE LION,

ELDEST SURVIVING SON OF HENRY THE SECOND.

[A. D. 1189.—*Reigned 9 Years.*]

SEE Richard, with a lion's rage,
Foremost in the ranks engage !
Signal was the conflict won,
O'er Saladin at Ascalon !
“ Conquer'd Pagans fly before him,
“ Christian warriors adore him :”
Far and wide his valour rings,
Rousing jealousy in kings :
False allies withhold their aid ;
Suspicion weakens the Crusade :
Add, to a brother's * treachery,
Shipwreck, and captivity !
By Leopold † a pris'ner made,—
England enormous ransom ‡ paid !

Richard's spirit unsubdued,
Plans of conquest still pursued ;
Investing Chaluz' treasur'd walls,
By Bertram's hand brave Richard falls.

* John.

† Leopold Duke of Austria, whom Richard had offended at the siege of Acre. Cœur de Lion not only laboured in person to repair the ruined ramparts, but gave out orders for other *leaders* to work at the head of their men. All cheerfully obeyed, except the Duke of Austria, who, with an air of insolence, observed, that “ his father having been neither bricklayer, nor mason, he did “ not understand the business !” This so exasperated Richard, that he kicked him out of his tent, and ordered his banner to be disgraced.

Berengaria, daughter of the King of Navarre, betrothed to Richard, was discourteously treated by the King of Cyprus. Richard afterwards seized upon the island, loaded its King with silver chains, and transferred the possession of it to Guy de Lusignan.

Three Lions passant first borne on the shield of England.

‡ About three hundred thousand pounds sterling.

NOTES ON RICHARD THE FIRST.

RICHARD, during his campaigns abroad, acquired more glory than advantage. If heroism be confined to brutal and ferocious valour, Richard Plantagenet will stand confessedly high on the list of heroes. Long after his return from the Holy War, the terror of his name was employed by the Syrian mothers to silence infants, and by the Turkish cavalry to chide the unruly steed.

No candid mind can be prevailed on to believe that a soldier, so free and fearless in the use of his lance, would descend to whet a dagger against his valiant comrade, the Marquis of Montserrat, who it appears was slain at Tyre by the hand of an assassin, avowedly employed for that purpose by a petty Asiatic prince, known by the name of "The Old Man of the Mountain." Insinuations, and falsehoods, equally groundless, were circulated by the French king, from motives of policy or envy, and blasted the laurels of the English conqueror.

After concluding a hasty treaty with Saladin, Richard embarked for Europe. In his route through the Austrian dominions he was detained as a prisoner, and, soon after his release, became the victim of a premature grave. The space of a few months concluded also the life and glories of Saladin; and though the Oriental historians dwell on his edifying death, which happened at Damascus, they seem ignorant of the equal distribution of his alms among people of different religions, and the display of a shroud instead of a standard, to admonish mankind of the instability of human greatness.

The wound which occasioned Richard's death, proved fatal only from the unskilful treatment of the surgeon. Finding his end approach, he ordered the Archer who had shot him to be brought into his presence. Richard, asked "what injury he had done him?"—"What injury have you done me!" replied the prisoner, "you killed, with your own hands, my father, and my two brothers; and you intended to have hanged myself. I am now in your power, and you may take revenge; but I will endure your torments with pleasure, since it is my consolation to know that I have rid the world of a tyrant!"

Richard, struck with the reply, and humbled by the approach of death, forgave the man, and ordered him to be set at liberty; but, no sooner had Richard expired, than the object of his clemency was flayed alive!

JOHN,

YOUNGEST BROTHER OF HENRY THE SECOND.

[A. D. 1199.—*Reigned 17 Years.*]

JOHN, to ev'ry vice allied,
Was infamy personified !
Arthur * by secret murder dies,
Vile usurpation's sacrifice !

Constance, the mother, raving, wild,
Distracted, mourn'd her murder'd child ;
Philip heard the frantic sound ;
Papal† thunder gather'd round ;
And John submissive bends the knee,
As vassal of the Roman see !

Such abject baseness to oppose,
Th' exasperated Barons rose,
And made the king's reluctant hand,
Sign the great charter of the land !
—Fain wou'd the wretch revoke the deed,
Himself confirm'd at Runnymede.

Watch, Britons, watch, with jealous eye,
This safe-guard of your liberty ;
Defend it from encroaching power ;
Preserve it to life's latest hour ;
Bequeath it with paternal care,
For ages yet unborn to share !

* Arthur was the son of John's elder brother Geoffrey. His right to the throne was for some time maintained by Philip King of France ; but John bribed the faithless monarch to abandon the cause of the infant prince, who soon after fell into his uncle's power, and no more was heard of him.

† By this interdict, and sentence of excommunication, the kingdom was given to Philip ;—John's subjects were absolved from their allegiance ;—Public worship was suppressed ;—And the rite of sepulture denied.

Among the remarkable events which transpired abroad during this reign, it may be proper to notice the taking of Constantinople by the French and Venetians ; and also the Crusade against the Albigenses, which gave rise to the Inquisition.

NOTES ON JOHN.

ABJECT in adversity, overbearing in success, and despised by all the princes of Europe, John exhibited a complication of vices, ruinous to himself, and destructive to his people. The mysterious death of his nephew Arthur, the legitimate heir to the throne, contributed as little to the *repose*, as to the *credit* of the king. Odious and contemptible, both in public and private life, he affronted the Barons by his insolence, dishonoured their families by his gallantries, enraged them by his tyranny, and excited discontent in all ranks, by endless exactions, and arbitrary impositions.

The conduct of the Pope, in appointing Langton (though a learned and deserving character) to the see of Canterbury, sufficiently displayed the opinion entertained of this recreant king at the court of Rome, although his holiness qualified this flagrant act of usurping power, by a present of some ridiculous baubles, consisting of four golden rings, set with precious stones, and, to enhance the value of his present, vouchsafed to unravel their occult and varied properties. He begged John to consider seriously their *form*, their *number*, their *metallic value*, and their *orient brightness*. Their *form*, he said, being round, shadowed out Eternity, which had neither beginning nor end; and he ought thence to learn his duty of aspiring—from things temporal, to things eternal. The *number four*, being a square, denoted steadiness of mind, not to be subverted either by adversity or prosperity,—fixed for ever on the firm basis of the four cardinal virtues. *Gold*, the most precious of metallic substances, signified *wisdom*,—that unspotted mirror of all perfection. The verdant colour of the emerald, represented *Faith*; the azure of the sapphire, *Hope*; the redness of the ruby, *Charity*; and the splendour of the topaz, *Good works*! By these conceits, Innocent the Third, endeavoured to repay John for one of the most important prerogatives he thought fit to deprive him of.

The last act of John's reign was to assemble an army for the purpose of resisting the ambitious views of the French Monarch, who, invited by the Barons, was endeavouring to set his son Lewis upon the throne of England. Directing his march toward Lincoln, John's route lay along the shore, subject to be overflowed at high water. The king, ignorant of this circumstance, lost all his carriages, treasures, and baggage, by the influx of the tide. Grief for the loss he had sustained, and the distracted state of his affairs, threw him into a fever, which proved fatal.

HENRY THE THIRD,

SON OF JOHN.

[A. D. 1216.—*Reigned* ~~55~~ 56 Years.] 56.

SCARCE the ninth year did Hal complete,
 When plac'd on th' Imperial seat.
 Base foreigners ascendance gain,
 With all their cringing, courtly train;
 'Till Pembroke, with indignant hand,
 Drove the locusts from the land:
 Back they came when Pembroke died,
 Encouraged by the Royal bride*.

Strange ways and means the monarch tries,
 To raise precarious supplies;
 Importunate from door to door,
 And loudly clamorous for more!

On Lewes' cliff by Leicester beat,
 A prison follow'd Hal's defeat;
 The galling and disgraceful chain
 Edward† resolved to burst in twain,
 And dare the tented field again: }
 To the fierce combat Leicester calls,
 Where Leicester, brave, in battle ‡ falls!

Arous'd by wrongs, Baronial Lords
 Brandish aloft their angry swords;
 And Henry's varied fortunes show,
 What ills from favoritism flow.

* Eleanor of Provence, whose needy followers filled every office and command, and whose unprincipled rapacity was exceeded only by their pride and insolence. So coarsely turbulent were the Barons become, that Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, behaved with personal rudeness to the King, and accused him of falsehood to his face!

† Prince Edward, afterward Edward I.

‡ The battle of Evesham, after which the king was set at liberty.

A splendid instance of intellectual improvement was exhibited by Roger Bacon, a Franciscan monk, whose comprehensive genius, aided by intense study, embraced the science of optics and astronomy, and extended to almost every operation in chemistry. With the composition and effects of gunpowder he was also acquainted; but, in the reign of ignorance, this knowledge was considered as the effect of magic.

NOTES ON HENRY THE THIRD.

LEWIS, who had been invited over by the Barons, did not long retain the crown. Forsaken by his new subjects, and defeated at Lincoln by the skill and vigilance of Pembroke, the French intruder found it necessary to relinquish his pretensions.

No sooner was Henry enabled to take the reins into his own hands, than violent struggles for power commenced between the young King, and his Barons. To make himself independent of their assistance, Henry had recourse to the most ridiculous schemes for raising money. He would invite himself to the houses of his subjects, and always expected a present at his departure. The demands he made on the Jews were merciless, and without remorse. Even minors and orphans did not escape his rapacity; and the sums, thus obtained, were lavished on the vermin of a vicious court.

In this disordered state of things, the Pope's legate made *his* triumphal entry, and showed as little reluctance to the work of pillage, as the monarch who had set him the example. In every demand, the King made for himself, the legate took care to make one for the Pope also. Thus harrassed by extortions, the Barons, after an uninterrupted course of suffering for the space of forty years, renounced their allegiance, and sent the King notice, that they considered him only as the common enemy of mankind.

Both sides were now up in arms, and the country was again embroiled in civil war. The Earl of Leicester defeated the King at Lewes, and took him and his son prisoners. The latter found means to escape; raised a body of forces, gained the battle at Evesham, and restored his father to the crown.

During this reign, a Parliament was called, in which the King was compelled to give orders, that two knights from each county should assemble to represent their respective shires, and, together with two burgesses from the corporate towns, deliberate for the general benefit of the nation. *This is the first confirmed outline of an English House of Commons*; and which annul'd the self-created authority of the Barons appointed at Oxford, and known by the name of the mad Parliament.

Since the feudal laws had relaxed in their severity, the situation of the people had undergone a favourable change. The establishment of *Corporation Charters* had rescued men from arbitrary power, and enabled them to cultivate a spirit of freedom unknown to their ancestors.

EDWARD THE FIRST,

SON OF HENRY THE THIRD.

[A. D. 1272.—*Reigned 34 Years.*]

EDWARD, as Longshanks known by name,
 Cambria's hardy race o'ercame,
 And on his eldest son entails,
 The principality of Wales.

In Scotland, where disputes ran high,
 Upon contested sovereignty,
 Edward, as referee, decreed,
 That *Baliol* shou'd as *King* succeed ;
 —'Twas but the shadow of a shade !
 For Baliol was a *Vassal* made !

Now Bruce and Wallace, fam'd in song,
 Rose to avenge their country's wrong ;
 Edward exclaim'd, “ I hope to see,”
 “ Scotland destroy'd from sea to sea !”

When Edward's race was nearly run, }
 He this advice bequeathed his son :— }
 “ Recall not thy fav'rite Gaveston ;
 “ Send my heart secure to dwell,
 “ In Palestine's sepulchral cell,
 “ But bear my banner'd-bones on high,
 “ To panic-strike the enemy !”

Westminster Abbey finished, sixty years in building.—Spectacles invented by a monk of Pisa.—The magnetic needle, or Mariner's compass, brought into use.—Courts of Kings Bench and Common Pleas arranged on their present establishment.—Coals first introduced for fuel. Two hundred and eighty Jews hanged for clipping and coining.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE FIRST.

WHEN Edward was in Palestine, the envenomed dagger of a Mahometan enthusiast might have proved fatal, but for the prompt and affectionate solicitude of Eleonora his Queen, who sucked the poison from the wound, and saved her husband's life at the hazard of her own.

At the commencement of this reign, a better administration of the laws was introduced. To certain knights in every county, a permission was granted, enabling them, in conjunction with the Sheriffs, to adopt measures for the preservation of public tranquillity. Hence arose the appointment of justices of the peace.

Upon Edward's return from abroad he seized the first favourable conjuncture of uniting *Wales* with England. After an arduous struggle the object was accomplished. A disputed succession in *Scotland* offered the *next* scope for military adventure, but was found far more difficult in its prosecution and attainment. In both enterprises, Edward left behind him the most vindictive memorials of his power. In *Wales*, the harp of the minstrel* had ceased to animate; and in *Scotland*, every record and monument of antiquity were destroyed.

A private gentleman, by the name of Wallace, undertook the deliverance of his country. Brave and athletic, he exhibited in various campaigns a degree of patience under fatigue and famine, almost beyond human endurance:—even the defeat at Falkirk only served to stimulate this intrepid leader to new resistance. Though wandering from mountain to mountain, and destitute of resources, his proud spirit of independence was unsubdued. At length the treachery of Monteith placed him in the power of his enemies. Edward, to strike the Scots with terror, ordered him to be conducted in chains to London, where he was executed with the most brutal ferocity.

Edward imposed so many new and arbitrary sources of revenue, that the enraged nobles insisted upon his adding a new clause to Magna Charta, by which it was enacted, that no tax or imposition should thenceforth be levied without the consent of Parliament.

* Edward's cruelty to the Cambrian Bards, (disbelieved by many writers) was the foundation of Gray's beautiful and sublime Ode entitled "The Bard."

EDWARD THE SECOND,

SON OF THE FORMER KING.

[A. D. 1307.—*Reigned 19 years.*]

NED Two, a wayward stubborn fool,
 Gaveston recall'd ; gave Spencers rule ;
 (Minions mark'd by public hate,
 Alike in favor, and in fate.)

At Bannockburn new sorrows rise,
 Embittering Edward's destinies !
 Exil'd from domestic peace,
 Hourly his sufferings increase ;
 Depos'd, deserted and disgrac'd,
 In ruffian-restriction plac'd,"
 Streaming tears* the want supplied,
 Which senseless ridicule denied.

Mock'd by Mortimer's hauteur,
 What insults did the king endure !
 Scorn'd by the adulteress Queen,
 Read Berkley's agonizing scene !

* When, in addition to other indignities, they brought him, in the depth of winter cold and dirty water, the wretched king burst into tears, exclaiming, " You see I have *warm water* in spite of you."

All those concerned in the sufferings and murder of this unhappy monarch, were made examples of signal retribution. Gurney, died by the hands of the executioner ;—Mautravers perished for want ;—Edmund, Earl of Kent, the king's brother, was beheaded ;—Mortimer was hanged ;—and Isabel, the queen, imprisoned for life.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE SECOND.

UNMINDFUL of the injunctions of his dying father, and governed by the seductive influence of his once exiled favourite, the war in Scotland was hardly permitted to solicit the King's attention. Advantage was taken of Edward's supineness, and even his defeat at Bannockburn was found insufficient to rouse him from his lethargy.

Among those who appeared in open rebellion against the King, was Edmond, Earl of Lancaster, a nobleman of turbulent disposition, but highly endeared to the Barons and the people. On his march to join the Scotch, with whom he had long held a correspondence, he was defeated, and made prisoner by Sir Andrew Harela; who had him instantly beheaded without the form of trial. In the following year, the brave Harela, (who had been rewarded with the Earldom of Carlisle) was convicted in *his* turn of corresponding with the Scotch, and perished on a scaffold.

Mortimer, one of the rebel Barons, whom Edward had sent to the Tower, effected his escape, to France. Young, and of prepossessing appearance, he so far attracted the notice of the Queen, who had fled from England in disgust, that in this nobleman's society, she forgot the sacred and paramount duty she owed to her husband.

Edward, embarrassed by difficulties of no ordinary magnitude, entertained a hope of escaping the contempt and vengeance of his subjects by retreating into Wales. The hue and cry of public indignation pursued him; and the place of his concealment being discovered, he was conducted back to the capital amid the insults and revilings of the populace. During his confinement in the Tower, it was deemed expedient to transfer the sceptre to his son, a youth of fourteen, and the Queen mother was appointed regent during the minority. Short is the interval between the prison and the grave of a King! Never did a fallen monarch sustain greater indignities, or greater torments! Sufferings like his must ever excite commiseration, and the cruelty of his death, so disproportionate to his guilt, is unexampled on human record.

EDWARD THE THIRD,

SON OF EDWARD THE SECOND.

[A. D. 1327.—*Reigned 50 years.*]

NED Three, the throne fill'd fifty years,
 In arms 'gainst Scotland soon appears :
 The worthless Mortimer's undone :
 Cannon's* thunder Cressy won :
 Swift the tale of Poictiers spread ;
 —A captive King † in triumph led !
 And Citizens, in gorgeous train,
 Crowns ‡ and sceptres entertain !

Conspicuous above the rest,
 Stands the Black Prince, in armour drest ;
 Brilliant, but short, was his career !
 Drop on the Hero's tomb a tear.

The Queen|| too, pleading mercy's cause,
 Commands posterity's applause :
 —A Queen who prov'd her lofty claim,
 To share a husband's martial fame !

* Cannon first used at the battle of Cressy ; and the motto and plume, worn by the King of Bohemia, are still worn by the Princes of Wales. The famous battle of Hallidown-hill fought.

† John, King of France, and his eldest son.

‡ Henry Picard, Lord Mayor of London, had the honour of entertaining the captive Kings of France and Scotland, and the King of Cyprus, at one table, with the most hospitable magnificence.

|| Philippa, implored her husband to forgive the condemned citizens of Calais. In Edward's absence abroad, she defeated David Bruce, the King of Scotland, at Neville Cross, near Durham.

Windsor castle built.—The statute of high treason first enacted.—Chaucer flourished ;—and Wickliffe, forerunner of Luther in the great work of religious reformation.—Order of the Garter instituted.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE THIRD.

DURING the King's minority, the government was intrusted to the protectorship of the Earl of Lancaster, assisted by a regency. From a feigned moderation, Mortimer declined being one of the number ; but though he left to this regency the outward forms and semblance of power, he shared with the Queen Dowager the revenues of the state, and the supreme authority.

Edward, in due time, resolved to destroy an influence so disgraceful to the nation, and restrictive to himself. His mother, who took no pains to conceal her criminal attachment, resided with her favorite in the castle of Nottingham. Every evening the gates were locked, and the keys carried to the Queen. Edward and a confidential party of his Barons, had long meditated the destruction of Mortimer, and, assisted by the governor, they were admitted by a private subterraneous passage into the castle. The obnoxious favourite was suddenly seized in an apartment adjoining that of the Queen. In spite of her frantic shrieks, her tears, and her entreaties *the gentle Mortimer*, for so she called him, was violently dragged from her presence, and soon after consigned to an ignominious death,—without trial, without hearing his answer, or examining a witness. The Queen, confined to the castle of Rising, survived her disgrace twenty-eight years. Edward made occasional visits to his mother, either from motives of decency, or, to satisfy himself that her establishment was properly conducted, and suitable to her dignity.

In the early part of his reign, Edward, after several fruitless expeditions into Scotland,—turned his ambitious views to another quarter. A dormant claim to the throne of France, was Edward's excuse for invading the country, though he should have known the *Salique* law was a bar to his pretensions. The victories of Cressy and Poitiers followed ; and the splendid achievements of the Black Prince derived no small degree of lustre, from the humanity and attention with which he strove to alleviate the misfortunes of his captives.

Edward's fondness, in declining life, for Alice Pierce, made him truly ridiculous. She commanded every thing ; she presided in the courts of justice, and the ministers were of her choosing. At a tournament in Smithfield, the King appeared in a triumphal chariot with this woman, styling her *the lady of the Sun!* She returned his favours by robbing him, in his last moments, of his rings, jewels, and every thing valuable about him. Edward for the lustre of his own fame lived too long ; his follies became the subject of parliamentary remonstrance, and his people beheld him not only with diminished attachment, but with disgust !

RICHARD THE SECOND,

SON OF THE BLACK PRINCE, AND GRANDSON OF EDWARD THE THIRD.

[A. D. 1377.—*Reigned 22 years.*]

THE Second Richard's regal sway,
Degraded sunk from day to day :
Rebellion, robbery, and blood *,
Wean'd from his cause the wise and good.

When rous'd by insolence acute,
Wat Tyler smote the loathsome brute,
Forth sallied an insurgent band,
'Till check'd by Walworth's *single* hand ;
—In the vague moment of surprise,
Richard the tumult pacifies,
Accosting thus the circled ring,—
“ Will you, my subjects, kill your King ?
“ What tho' your leader lifeless lays,
“ I will your drooping spirits raise ;
“ By me your wrongs shall be redress'd :”
He spoke ; and uproar sunk to rest.

One great and rankling cause arose †,
To multiply the monarch's foes :
Hotspur and Percy join the host
Of Hereford, on Yorkshire's coast ;
Immur'd 'mid Pomfret's gloomy walls,
The Royal Victim bravely § falls !

* The Duke of Gloucester was strangled ; the earl of Arundel beheaded ; and Warwick condemned to perpetual imprisonment.

† His severity and injustice to Hereford surnamed Bolingbroke, afterwards Duke of Lancaster, and finally crowned Henry the Fourth.

‡ Sir Pierce Exton, with eight ruffians, undertook to murder him. When the assassins entered the room, Richard sprung forward, wrested a pole-axe from the hand of an assailant, and laid four of them dead at his feet. Exton, from behind, and unscen by his victim, struck the fatal blow which deprived him of his life

NOTES ON RICHARD THE SECOND.

RICHARD was but eleven years of age when he came to the throne. Great expectations were formed of his future conduct, from the magnanimity he showed during the seditious movements of Tyler and his adherents. The rest of his life however by no means accorded with this early specimen. Evil counsellors got possession of him. Fond of luxurious pleasure and idle ostentation, he admitted the meanest ranks to his familiarity, and his conversation was not adapted to impress them with a reverence either for his morals or abilities. The elevation of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, contributed still more to make the King odious, and the following accident completed his overthrow.

Henry, Duke of Hereford (afterwards Duke of Lancaster, and eventually crowned by the title of Henry the Fourth) exhibited a charge against the Duke of Norfolk for having spoken seditious words against the King. In the absence of proof, it was decreed by the Lords in Parliament, that the dispute should be decided by single combat. All the formalities were prepared, and the combatants had fixed their lances, when the King unexpectedly threw down his warder, and the heralds interposed. Both were banished. Norfolk soon died of sorrow, and chagrin. Hereford had four years remitted of his exile, and was so well received at the French Court, that he was on the point of being married to the only daughter of the Duke of Berry, when Richard, by meddling insinuation, prevented the match. Hereford became indignant, and now first turned his thoughts upon acquiring the crown of England. Cool, cautious, discerning, and resolute, he was the idol of the soldiery, and the favourite of the people. Immensely rich, and by blood or alliance connected with the first nobility of the realm, the injustice of his sentence was loudly exclaimed against. His father, the Duke of Lancaster dying, the banished Duke of Hereford, next found his titles and estate confiscated and seized on, by the avaricious King, who decreed his banishment should be *perpetual*. The nation took an interest in the Duke's misfortunes : Richard was at last deposed, and Lancaster elected in his stead. Thus was laid the foundation of a contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, which broke out in the time of Henry the Sixth.

When Richard, impatient of parliamentary control, consulted the judges, they gave it as their opinion that the king *was above law*, and signed a declaration to that effect. One of the judges however, named Belkness, was overheard to say, " Now I want nothing but a horse, a hurdle, and a halter, to bring me to the death I deserve for thus betraying my country."

HENRY THE FOURTH,

SON OF JOHN OF GAUNT, DUKE OF LANCASTER AND HEREFORD.

[A. D. 1399.—*Reigned 13 years.*]

USURPING Bolingbroke appears,
Tortur'd with remorse and fears ;
Lest Mortimer*, the legal heir,
The sparkling diadem shou'd wear.

Turbulence, revolt, and hate,
Convuls'd the fabric of the state ;
The house of Percy rued the day,
Which foster'd the usurper's sway,
And in a firm decided tone,
Shook Henry's title to the throne:
Owen Glendour, and Douglas, strive,
To keep rebellion's torch alive :
Shrewsbury was Hotspur's † grave,
Northumberland the King forgave.

Henry, to his latest hour,
Gaz'd on the gew-gaw of his pow'r !
Chiding, with a sick-man's frown,
His son's impatience for the crown,
And envying the sea-boy's sleep,
Amid the horrors of the deep !

* Mortimer was the true heir apparent, as being descended in a right line from Lionel Duke of Clarence, son of Edward the Third ; whereas Henry was descended from John of Gaunt, a *younger* son of the same Edward.

† The Earl of Northumberland and his son, called Hotspur, from the impetuosity of his temper.

In the first Parliament assembled by Henry, no less than forty challenges were given and accepted.

Henry's Father—Henry married Lady Catherine Swynford, sister-in-law of Chaucer the Poet.

NOTES ON HENRY THE FOURTH.

FROM the manner in which Henry obtained the crown, it may naturally be imagined that many acts of severity accompanied the early part of his reign. Those who opposed his title were visited with the most vindictive policy. Henry, though known to have imbibed the principles of Wickliffe, was now determined to sacrifice his creed to his interest, and procure the aid of the church by wreaking vengeance on those who disputed her infallibility. In England no penal law had hitherto been enacted against heresy, and as the clergy clamoured loudly for the punishment of Wickliffe's followers, Henry availed himself of this opportunity to secure their favour. The weapon of annoyance was prepared, and the fetters of prejudice did not long remain unemployed. Sautré, a clergyman, had been condemned by the convocation at Canterbury; his sentence was ratified by the House of Peers, and the unhappy man suffered at the stake.

But the utmost precaution and prudence of Henry, could not allay the inquietudes which assailed him from every quarter. He had to contend with an insurrection in Wales, and an invasion from Scotland. The friendship, too, of the Earl of Northumberland was withdrawn, because of Henry's arbitrary interference respecting some prisoners of distinction, to whose ransom the noble Earl was exclusively entitled. Northumberland now resolved to overturn a throne, which he had been the chief instrument in establishing. Plans were proposed, in which the Scots and Welch were to unite their forces, and espouse the legitimate claim of Mortimer. A battle was fought at Shrewsbury, where the King, in person, obtained a complete victory. Hotspur, Earl Percy, was killed, after displaying prodigies of valour. His father was prevented by sickness from sharing the dangers of the field on that day; and when he learnt its disastrous issue, he chose rather to throw himself on the mercy of the King, than lead a precarious life in indigence and exile. Northumberland's connections were sufficiently powerful to screen him from punishment, and Henry, making a merit of necessity, pardoned him.

Henry was so tormented with the apprehension of losing his authority before his death, that he never retired to rest, without first seeing the crown placed upon his pillow; and chronicles have recorded a story of its removal thence, during his sleep, by Prince Henry, which brought on a scene of paternal expostulation finely improved in the language of our great dramatist.

In this reign flourished William of Wickham, founder of two colleges, one in Winchester, the other in Oxford.

HENRY THE FIFTH,

ELDEST SON OF HENRY THE FOURTH.

[A. D. 1413.—*Reigned 9 years.*]

HERO of Agincourt's proud ranks,
 No more a slave to youthful * pranks,
 Forthwith to Europe's wondering eyes,
 Display'd the valour of the wise!

Ill-fated France by faction torn,
 (Doom'd a maniac king† to mourn,)
 Beheld, with anguish'd aching eye,
 The crush of England's victory!

Say shall the hero, high in fame,
 Blend with cruelty his name?
 —When the dreadful fight was done,
 Unsparing massacre begun‡,
 And on the reeking gory plain:
 Defenceless prisoners were slain!

In Henry, by turns, we trace,
 A mind magnanimous, and base!
 See where the bigot's flames arise,
 Prepared for Cobham's§ agonies!

* He struck Judge Gascoyne on the bench, who committed him to prison.

† Charles the Sixth.

‡ This has been defended on the principle that the number of prisoners far exceeded *that* of his own army.

§ Never did the cruelty of man invent, or the crimes of the delinquent draw down, more torments than Oldcastle was made to endure: he was hung up with a chain by the middle, and by a slow fire, burned, or rather roasted alive!

In this reign was held the celebrated Council of Constance, when John Huss, and Jerome of Prague, disciples of Wickliffe, suffered at the stake.

NOTES ON HENRY THE FIFTH.

Most praiseworthy was the step which Henry took upon coming to the throne. He at once renounced all intercourse with his dissolute companions, while those who had freely rebuked his follies were received into favour. The first exercise of his power was directed against the heresy of Wickliffe. Oldcastle, Baron of Cobham, was the most considerable protector of this sect, and was therefore pointed out as a proper victim of ecclesiastical severity. After his condemnation, Cobham found means to escape from the Tower. Exasperated by persecution and animated by zeal, he openly appeared in arms against the state, thereby adding to the charge of heresy the crime of rebellion, and incurring *that* guilt which left him without the hope of clemency.

Henry meditated a descent upon France, then governed by a feeble monarch, subject to frequent fits of insanity, and whose disorder was increased by the following accident. At a masquerade given at the palace, a group, of which Charles was one, unexpectedly entered the saloon, disguised as savages and chained together. Their apparel was made of linen, covered with resin, and encrusted over with fur. The Duke of Orleans, unintentionally running a lighted torch against one of the dancers, the combustible habiliment caught fire; the flame was quickly communicated to the rest; and this scene of wanton mirth was instantly changed into sorrow and distress. To the Duchess of Berri the king owed his preservation, but he was so deeply affected with the catastrophe, that his disorder returned with redoubled violence, and attacked him periodically to the end of his life. It was for the amusement of Charles VI. that playing-cards were first invented.

Nothing can more fully show the wretched state of France at this æra, than the conduct of the parties into which it was divided. The Duke of Burgundy caused his political enemy, the Duke of Orleans, to be assassinated, and afterwards openly avowed, and justified the action!

Henry fixed his residence at Paris, and the magnificence of his court far eclipsed *that* of his humbled rival. On Whitsunday (1421) the two Kings and their two Queens, with crowns on their heads, dined together in public; Charles indeed receiving apparent homage, but Henry commanding with absolute authority.

By marrying Catherine, daughter of Charles VI. of France, Henry acquired the administration of affairs in that kingdom during the life of his insane father-in-law, and entertained the hope of becoming his heir, and successor. But, dying in the flower of his age, Henry left behind him an infant, eight months old, who lost by sloth and cowardice all that the father had acquired.

HENRY THE SIXTH,

SON OF THE FORMER KING,

[A. D. 1422.—*Reigned 38 years.*]

WARS OF YORK AND LANCASTER BEGIN.

FRANCE, and Albion's sea-girt isle,
 On a cradled monarch smile!
 Bedford guides the helm of state,
 In battle, and in council great,
 'Till the Orlean's Maid appear'd,
 And superstition's banner rear'd.
 Arm'd cap-a-pie Joan, takes the field,
 With inspiration for her shield!

In England too, how chang'd the scene!
 Rul'd by Anjou's haughty Queen.
 Hark! what means that horrid din?
 Feuds of families begin;
 Civil war the land alarms;
 Divided houses fly to arms;
White, the emblem York displays;
Red, fierce Lancaster arrays.

Look back to yon distracted times,
 Drench'd in slaughter! clad in crimes!
 Long and loud the battle's roar,
 Brothers steep'd in brothers' gore!
 Warwick*, wasting valour's treasure,
 Made and unmade Kings at pleasure!
 Inveterate the conflict burns,
 Hal and Edward rule by turns!

* Called the King-maker.

His two uncles, the Dukes of Bedford and Gloucester, were appointed, during his minority, to superintend the management of public affairs, and the education of the young prince was intrusted to Cardinal Beaufort. We are told that when Henry was a child, he was placed in his mother's lap to hear the speaker of the House of Commons pronounce a fulsome panegyric upon his dawning virtues. Princes, it has been observed, learn nothing *correctly* but the art of horsemanship; the reason is, the animal is no flatterer; he will throw a prince with as little ceremony as his groom.

Printing was invented, also etching and engraving on copper.—The College of Eton, and King's College in Cambridge founded.

NOTES ON HENRY THE SIXTH.

DURING this reign, the English were driven from the Continent by the intrepidity of a female enthusiast—the Maid of Orleans ; so called from her raising the siege of that city. After a number of almost incredible exploits, this extraordinary woman was taken prisoner, and burnt as a sorceress. The death of the Duke of Bedford soon after, and the defection of the Duke of Burgundy, contributed not a little to the success of the French ; and the conquerors of Cressy and Agincourt were now to endure the miseries of anarchy at home.

A pretender to the crown appeared in the person of Richard Duke of York. Descended from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, one of the sons of Edward the Third, he had a prior claim to Henry the reigning king, who was descended from John of Gaunt, a *younger* son of the same Edward. Such a claim could not have fallen into more dangerous hands. Possessing valour and abilities, and beloved by the people, the Duke of York soon formed a powerful combination in his favour.

Henry's feeble character began now to unfold itself. Margaret of Anjou his queen (daughter of René, titular king of Sicily) was a woman of daring spirit. She was suspected of being instrumental to the murder of the Duke of Gloucester, and her minister, the Earl of Suffolk, was considered as an accomplice. After some little time Suffolk was impeached, and banished to France, but he was intercepted on his passage and put to death.

Somerset was next called to the management of affairs, but, unable to resist the popular fury, he was sent to the Tower, and the Duke of York was appointed by the commons, protector of the realm. Henry recovering from an indisposition which had long enfeebled the few powers he possessed, was prevailed on to annul this appointment, and restore Somerset to his former situation. The Duke of York resented this change by a direct appeal to arms. Several engagements followed with various success ; Margaret being at one time victorious, at another in exile. The victory at Wakefield, in which the Duke of York was slain, only stimulated to new exertions the Earl of Warwick, a nobleman whose magnificence and hospitality were unbounded ; who was considered as the most accomplished general of the age, and who entertained for the queen the most deep-rooted abhorrence.

The transactions of this period have but little interest to recommend them ; crimes are committed on both sides, and scarce a shining character, or a virtue, intervenes to animate the narrative. Among the events of this reign may be classed the insurrectionary movements of *Cade*, whose life paid the forfeit of his temerity.

EDWARD THE FOURTH,

SON OF RICHARD DUKE OF YORK.

[A. D. 1461,—*Reigned 22 years.*]

EDWARD the Fourth, with fearless hand,
 Grasp'd the sceptre of the land,
 And signaliz'd by York's white rose,
 Wreak'd vengeance on his father's* foes :
 At length enkindling Warwick's hate,
 Eclips'd was Edward's kingly state !
 And Henry re-assum'd the rein,
 'Till Warwick bled on Barnet's plain.

Where Avon's † mingled waters flow,
 Was Henry's final overthrow ;
 Within the dungeon's darken'd grate,
 Mysterious was the monarch's fate ;
 The Queen, with piercing sorrow rent,
 Heard the foul murder of the tent ;
 Heard how the traitor Clarence died,
 And o'er her ‡ fall'n ambition sigh'd !

* Richard the father of Edward was killed at the battle of Wakefield, and his head, by Queen Margaret's express command was placed on the walls of York, surmounted with a paper crown in derision of his pretended title.

† Tewksbury Park, where Henry's forces were commanded by the Duke of Somerset. When Edward first attacked the Duke in his intrenchments, he met with such a repulse, that the assailants retired with precipitation. Somerset, supposing them routed, immediately pursued, and ordered Lord Wenlock to support him, while he charged. The order was not obeyed, and the forces of Somerset were overpowered by numbers. Reduced to the last extremity by the misconduct of Wenlock, whom he beheld inactive, in the very place where he had first drawn up his men, Somerset in the transport of his rage, ran upon the coward with his heavy battle-axe, and killed him on the spot.

‡ A considerable ransom was paid for her by the French King. This extraordinary woman, after having sustained the cause of her husband in twelve battles ; after having survived her friends, fortunes and children, died a prey to solitude and dejection. Clarence was put to death for exclaiming against the iniquity of his friend Burdet's sentence, who was executed at Tyburn for some intemperate expression about the loss of a favourite deer.

A tradesman executed for saying he would make his son heir to the crown, alluding to the sign of his house.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE FOURTH.

THE battle of Tooton ushered in the reign of Edward, who, assisted by Warwick, overthrew the Lancastrians with great slaughter. Henry and his queen, took refuge in Scotland; but soon after rallied their forces, only to sustain another defeat at Hexham. Margaret, with her infant child, was exposed to the romantic perils of a forest, infested with robbers, but at last escaped to France: her husband was discovered at an obscure retreat in Lancashire, and imprisoned in the tower.

Edward, wishing to form a matrimonial alliance, fixed his eye on Bona of Savoy, sister of the Queen of France. Warwick was despatched to Paris with proposals, and the treaty was concluded. During the negotiation, Edward became enamoured of the widow of Sir John Gray, a lady whose personal attractions secured her immediate elevation to the throne. From that hour Warwick became the king's decided enemy. To strengthen his interest, Warwick bestowed the hand of his daughter on the Duke of Clarence, (the king's brother) and even consented to a reconciliation with Margaret. Intimidated by so formidable a league, Edward withdrew to Holland, and Henry, released from his imprisonment, re-ascended the throne.

In spite of these reverses of fortune, Edward returned to England, and soon found himself in a situation to encounter the Earl of Warwick, who had taken post at Barnet. The issue of that battle was fatal to Warwick, and only served as a prelude to the final and disastrous conflict at Tewksbury, where Margaret, and her son, were taken prisoners. The young prince was led to the tent of the conqueror, who imperiously demanded, "how he dared to invade England?" "I came" answered the magnanimous youth "to revenge my father's wrongs, and redress my own." The unguarded prince survived the reply but a few minutes. Margaret was conducted to the tower, where her husband had, but a few days before, *suddenly* expired. Clarence though he had basely deserted the cause of Margaret, was never favourably received by the opposite party. He was brought to trial by the intrigues of his brother Gloucester, and being found guilty, asked permission to be suffocated in a butt of malmsey, rather than perish on a scaffold.

A spirit of gallantry, mixed with cruelty, distinguished this reign. A masque, or a murder, were viewed with equal indifference, and the king would at once gallant a mistress, and inspect an execution!

EDWARD THE FIFTH,

ELDEST SON OF THE FORMER KING.

[A. D. 1483.—*Reigned 2 months and 13 days.*]

By midnight machination slain,
 Few the days of Edward's reign !
 Children murder'd* in their sleep,
 Leave impressions, lasting, deep !

Gloucester arraigns in evil hour,
 The blight of witchcraft's with'ring power ;
 " Behold," he cries, " this palsied arm,
 " Shrunk by incantation's charm !
 " Tell me, what punishment is due,
 " To Sorcery's infernal crew ?"
 The assembled council with one breath,
 Denounc'd aloud "*immediate death !*"
 See Hastings to the scaffold led,
 And outcast beauty † beg for bread !
 Oft does the weeping Muse lament,
 The persecuted penitent ;
 —Doom'd in life's last stage to know,
 The dread abyss of human woe !

* From Comines we learn, that the court of France was so much struck with horror at Richard's conduct, that the English ambassador was refused an audience.

† Jane Shore.

Walpole, the author of " Historic Doubts," has raised many strong objections against the belief of these murders, and the generally received character of Richard the Third.

So peculiarly fatal had been the wars of York and Lancaster to persons of rank, that at the first parliament of Edward IV. the nobility of England consisted only of one Duke, four Earls, one Viscount, and twenty-nine Barons.

Henry's Hist. Brit.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE FIFTH.

THE former King left two sons, the Prince of Wales, now Edward the Fifth, in his thirteenth year, and Richard Duke of York, a few years younger. Their uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, was appointed Regent during the minority, and to his care the two young Princes were consigned, in opposition to the wishes of their mother who had an inward foreboding of their fate.

A man, like Gloucester, who had abandoned all principles of honour and humanity, was soon carried by his ambitious views beyond the reach of fear or precaution. Earl Rivers, the Queen's brother, a nobleman distinguished for his loyalty, was thrown into prison, and executed without any form of trial. Lord Hastings, for the firmness of his attachment, was treated in like manner, while Buckingham became the willing instrument of Gloucester's designs.

Jane Shore was the next sacrifice to be made, who, though the *mistress* of a Monarch, was respectable for many virtues. Her humanity waited not the temptation of a bribe, or the hope of reciprocal benefit. To protect the oppressed, and relieve the indigent, were to her the highest source of pleasure. But nothing could save her from the bitterness of shame. She pleaded guilty, and the remainder of her life was long and wretched. Among the many courtiers she had raised to favour, not a single hand extended relief; and she languished out her days in solitude and want.

Richard, no longer made a secret of his design to usurp the crown. As a colour to his pretensions, emissaries were employed to raise scruples against the legitimacy of the young King. The Citizens of London, assembled in Guildhall, were addressed by Buckingham in a popular harangue, setting forth the titles and virtues of the Protector. The conclusion of the speech was followed by a shout exclaiming, "God save King Richard!" With seeming reluctance he accepted the crown, and performed all the acts of invested sovereignty.

This ridiculous farce was soon followed by a scene truly diabolical. Sir Robert Brakenbury, constable of the Tower, received *orders* which he declined to execute. The Usurper then sent for Sir James Tyrrel, to whom the government of the Tower was intrusted for *one* night. Sir James, attended by three associates, entered the apartment where the Princes slept. The deed of darkness was perpetrated, and when the bodies were shown to Tyrrel, he ordered them to be buried at the foot of an unfrequented staircase, where, bones corresponding with the age of the victims, were found in the reign of Charles the Second, who caused them to be interred in a marble monument.

RICHARD THE THIRD, SURNAMED CROOKBACK,

BROTHER OF EDWARD THE FOURTH.

[A. D. 1483.—*Reigned 2 Years.*]

DEFORM'D in body and in mind,
 Richard every vice combin'd,
 Repaying with a deadly hate,
 The friends who gave him sceptred state.

With anger Buckingham* survey'd,
 Services so ill repaid ;
 Neglected,—scorn'd,—to arms he flies ;
 Betray'd, and taken in disguise,
 His life became the sacrifice !

As murd'rer and usurper known,
 Richard trembles on the throne ;
 Shadowy spectres flitting by,
 Thus portend his destiny ;
 “ Know th' unerring Fates ordain,
 “ Short shall be thy guilty reign ;
 “ Soon the venom'd battle's blow,
 “ Shall lay ambition's fabric low.”

With Richmond, Stanley's ranks unite,
 And the wretch falls at Bosworth's fight,
 The badges of distinction† cease,
 And England hails returning peace !

* The Duke of Buckingham was the person who set the crown upon Richard's head, and Richard, in return cut off Buckingham's. Sir William Stanley by his timely support, set the crown on Henry's (VII.) head, and ten years after by Henry's order the baronet was conducted to the block.

† The ensigns of the red and white rose.

Richard wanted not bravery, but his crimes had left him with hardly a friend whom he could trust. By the defection of Stanley, during the heat of battle, Richard was convinced that he had nothing to hope for but a glorious death. With this view, he mowed his way to the banner of his competitor ; but just as he had caught sight of Henry, the followers of Stanley rushed in between ; and the intrepid Richard, disdaining mercy and gallantly fighting to his last gasp, sunk to the ground overwhelmed by numbers and expired. The stone coffin in which he was buried, served for a horse-trough many years after at an obscure inn in Leicester.

NOTES ON RICHARD THE THIRD.

RICHARD endeavoured to gain by favours, those whom he thought could give stability to his throne. But Richard's danger arose from a quarter he little expected, namely, from the Duke of Buckingham, who did not think himself sufficiently rewarded for his services in promoting the usurpation. Richard received intelligence that his enemies were plotting to overthrow his government, and that Buckingham was at the head of the confederacy. The King lost no time to counteract their plans, and the Duke, foiled in his attempt to cross the Severn by a most extraordinary inundation, found it necessary to conceal himself in the house of an old servant, who betrayed him. Buckingham, as might be expected, fell a sacrifice to that power which he himself had raised.

The Earl of Richmond appeared on the coast of England with a body of five thousand men ; but hearing of the fate of Buckingham, and the disposition of his friends, he returned to Brittany. Richard, thus triumphant, ventured at last to summon a parliament, which recognised his authority, and the King passed some popular laws to reconcile the nation to his government.

About this time, his wife dying, Richard proposed to marry the Princess Elizabeth ; and, strange as it may appear, the Queen dowager neither scrupled this alliance, nor felt any horror at the thought of marrying her daughter to a man who was avowedly the murderer of her children. Richmond, alarmed at the disgusting intelligence, resolved on a new invasion. Landing at Milford-haven, the Welch flocked to his standard, and all men of probity and honour were anxious to prevent the sceptre from being any longer polluted by the hand which held it. Among these were Lord Stanley, and his brother Sir William, whose support at Bosworth Field, decided the long contest between the two houses. The King was slain, and the victorious troops, in a transport of joy, bestowed on their general the appellation of *King*. In order to give some kind of *form* to this military election, the ornamental crown which Richard wore in battle, was placed upon Henry's head : his title was confirmed by parliament, and his marriage with the Princess Elizabeth, united the jarring claims which had so long desolated the kingdom.

Thus ended the reign of the Plantagenets, whose family had been in possession of the throne for three hundred and thirty years.

HENRY THE SEVENTH, EARL OF RICHMOND,

SON OF EDMUND TUDOR, MARRIED ELIZABETH, THE ONLY SURVIVING DAUGHTER AND REPRESENTATIVE OF EDWARD IV. THEREBY UNITING THE FAMILIES OF YORK AND LANCASTER.—THE FATHER OF EDMUND TUDOR WAS SIR OWEN TUDOR, WHO MARRIED CATHARINE, WIDOW OF HENRY V.

[A. D. 1485.—*Reigned 23 Years.*]

LANCASTRIAN HAL, severely wise,
Bade industry and commerce rise:
But say, what foresight can prevent
The stratagems of discontent?

Lambert, whose low-born puny claim,
Excited ridicule and shame,
Is afterwards with pity view'd,
And plac'd in *menial* servitude.

Next Warbeck* rose, whose well-marked face,
Resembled much the royal race,
Which strong credential brought his cause,
Friends, adherents†, and applause:
The noblest maiden of the land,
Accepted the impostor's hand:
—Time reveal'd the flimsy cheat,
And Warbeck's ruin was complete.

Henry's predominating vice,
Was groveling, grasping, avarice!
Dudley and Empson's‡ vile chicane,
The royal coffers cram'd with gain!

In climes remote, through seas unknown,
A spirit of adventure shone;
Columbus hail'd, with joy sincere,
The long-sought Western hemisphere!

* Supported by the Duchess of Burgundy, who publicly acknowledged him for her nephew.

† Lord Fitzwalter, Sir Simon Mountford, Sir Thomas Thwaites, and many others.

‡ These instruments of oppression, executed in the following reign, were both lawyers: the first of mean birth and brutal manners: the second was of less exceptionable origin; improved by education: but equally unjust, severe and inflexible. Their legal acquirements enabled them to pervert the forms of justice, and Henry supported them in their iniquities. By reviving obsolete penal statutes, vast confiscations were brought into the exchequer. In his latter days, the King did not escape the remorse due to his crimes, and he gave orders that restitution should be made to all those whom he had injured.

NOTES ON HENRY THE SEVENTH.

INSTEAD of receiving indiscriminately the friends of both families, Henry carried to the throne all the partialities which belong to the head of a faction. The House of York was still endeared to the nation, and therefore became every day more and more the object of Henry's aversion: his amiable consort was treated with a coldness bordering on contempt; his government was unpopular, and his reign filled with plots and insurrections.

The *first* rebellion, headed by Lord Lovell, and the two Staffords, quickly ended in the ruin of its authors: the *second* was of a more dangerous nature as being interwoven with the public discontent.

Henry's jealousy had confined in the Tower, Edward Plantagenet Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence. A report was spread that Warwick had made his escape. A burst of joy diffused itself throughout the kingdom, and this was thought a favourable opportunity for increasing the number of the King's enemies. Lambert Simnel, (a youth of understanding and address above his condition, and tutored by one Simon an Oxford priest) seemed well calculated to personate a prince of royal extraction. In Ireland, the imposture succeeded to a certain extent, but was at last detected, and Simnel thought too contemptible for further notice.

The old Duchess of Burgundy, sister of Edward the Fourth, burning with resentment for the studied neglect shewn to her family and friends, determined to play off *another* imposture. She fixed upon Perkin Warbeck, the son of a renegado Jew, whose wandering habits of life rendered the parentage of the youth difficult to be traced by the most diligent inquiry. Young and of quick apprehensions, Warbeck, was well fitted to act any part, or assume any character. The better to prepare him for the enterprise of personating the Duke of York, (who was smothered in the Tower) he passed some time at the court of Portugal, and had likewise been received with all imaginable respect at the court of France. The whole kingdom was full of the accomplishments and adventures, and misfortunes of the young Plantagenet. After an unsuccessful residence amongst the Irish, Warbeck bent his course to Scotland; and such was his insinuating manner, and plausible address, that Lady Catherine Gordon, daughter of the Earl of Huntly, eminent both for beauty and virtue, consented to become his wife. After some little time, Warbeck's pretensions grew stale even in the eyes of the populace, and he was persuaded to deliver himself up under a promise of pardon. But while a prisoner in the Tower, his habits of restless intrigue still followed him. He entered into a conspiracy with Warwick, which did not escape the King's vigilance. Both the impostor and his accomplice were brought to trial, and executed.

The Cape of Good Hope, the island of Madagascar, Florida, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trinidad, and Newfoundland enriched the progress of maritime discovery. Maps and sea-charts brought to England.

HENRY THE EIGHTH,

SON OF HENRY THE SEVENTH,

[A. D. 1509.—*Reigned 37 Years.*]

HAL, bold in measure, bold in crime !
 The dread, the wonder, of his time !
 Marriage, murder, and divorce,
 Mark the changeling monarch's course ;
 In the same unfeeling breath
 A mistress woo'd, or put to death ;
 Arragon, Boleyn, Seymour, Cleves,
 Kates, Howard, Parr *, the wretch deceives !

Wolsey wou'd climb the papal chair,
 'Tho' monasteries dissolve in air ;
 'Tho' Henry braves the Pontiff's ban,
 Loud thund'ring from the Vatican !

Now *Faith's Defender* † fearless rose,
All religions to oppose ;
 Creeds were unavailing names,
 To save their followers from flames !

Wolsey, stript of pride and power ‡,
 Exclaim'd in life's departing hour,
 “ Had I serv'd God with half the zeal,
 “ I've served an *earthly* monarch's weal,
 “ He wou'd not, at life's awful close,
 “ Have left me naked to my foes !”

* Names of his wives as they followed each other. After living eighteen years with his first wife Catharine, widow of his brother Arthur, he procured a divorce. Anne Boleyn, beheaded. Jane Seymour, died in childbed. Anne of Cleves, divorced. Catharine Howard, beheaded. Catharine Parr survived her husband, and soon after married Lord Seymour.

† Title conferred by the Pope for Henry's tract against Luther.

‡ When Wolsey was deprived of the seals, they were given to Sir Thomas More, who was the most inconsistent of men. Though fond of domestic habits he could drive his wife to elope by his imprudent sarcasms ; and, though said to be humane by nature, he could enjoy the agonies of a heretic writhing under the torture of the scourge. He was condemned to die for refusing to take the oaths of supremacy and succession, and it was this verdict which drew on Henry the vengeance of papal excommunication.

When More was brought to the place of execution, he jested on the tottering and ill-constructed state of the scaffold ; and when about to lay his head upon the block, he made his beard the subject of merriment.

NOTES ON HENRY THE EIGHTH.

AGITATED by contrary passions, and often falling from one extreme to another, Henry's vacillating conduct left his subjects in a state of uncertainty what to believe or what to reject. At one time, the King writes against Luther, and obtains from his Holiness the distinguished title of "*Defender of the faith*;" at another time, he renounces the authority of the papal see, and commands his subjects to acknowledge no supremacy but his own. Inconstant in his affections, and overbearing in his family, the domestic tyrant spread terror through every apartment of his palace. So greatly was his vindictive temper feared, that the Duke of Buckingham was the only man in the Kingdom who had resolution enough to complain. Wolsey instantly had him accused of treason; and this high-spirited nobleman was condemned and executed. When it was told to the Emperor Charles the Fifth, he exclaimed, in allusion to the meanness of Wolsey's birth, "that a *butcher's dog* had worried to death the finest *buck* in Christendom."

France, which had long been the grave of the English, was now to become a scene of absurd and enormous extravagance. Henry met the French King (Francis the First) near Calais. The expense of the interview may be conceived from the name given the field where this august ceremony took place; it was called "*The field of the cloth of gold*!"

After having been long married to Catherine of Arragon, Henry was smitten with the charms of Anne Boleyn, and demanded a divorce. The Pope wished to get rid of the question; Wolsey was equally embarrassed, and at length sunk under the weight of the King's displeasure. The fall of Wolsey paved the way for his secretary Cromwell; who, after assisting the King in the demolition of religious houses, and enjoying his unlimited confidence, fell a sacrifice to the wayward temper of his capricious master.

In the early part of this reign was fought the celebrated battle of Spurs, so called from the French trusting more to the speed of their horses, than the use of their swords. During Henry's absence on the continent, the Earl of Surrey defeated the Scots at Flodden-field.

Henry had been married to six wives. The last (Catherine Parr) was about to be committed to the Tower as a heretic, when the King died. The Duke of Norfolk escaped by the same incident, or would have shared the fate of his son, the Earl of Surrey.

It would be injustice to deprive Wolsey of the elegant encomium bestowed on him by Erasmus: "Polite learning he upheld by his favour, defended by his authority, adorned by his splendour, and cherished by his kindness."

In Henry's last illness, Sir Anthony Denny was the only person who had the courage to warn him of his approaching end. Cranmer was sent for, but finding the King speechless, he begged his master to give some sign of his dying in the faith of Christ. He squeezed the Prelate's hand, and expired.

EDWARD THE SIXTH,

SON OF HENRY THE EIGHTH, BY LADY JANE SEYMOUR,

[A. D. 1547.—*Reigned 6 Years.*]

HAIL, Edward! last of Edward's name!
 The idol of admiring fame!
 Born to grace the sceptred throne,
 Science* claim'd him for her own;
 But like the verdure's early blade,
 Young Edward blossom'd but to fade.

When virulence and factious strife,
 Lost Somerset† his valued life,
 Northumberland, with lordly hand,
 Control'd the council of the land,
 And by a policy refin'd,
 Moulded the monarch to his mind.
 Ill-fated, unassuming Jane,
 Reluctantly consents to reign;
 —Short was her ephemeral pow'r,
 The glittering phantom of an hour!

* At ten years of age he had made considerable progress in Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian.

† Among other charges brought against him it was alleged, that to furnish ground and materials for the structure of his magnificent palace in the Strand, the church of Saint Mary, and three bishops houses had been demolished.

Though Somerset escaped for this time, he was afterwards tried upon charges of insurrection, to which he pleaded "not guilty," but confessed he had laid a project for murdering the Earls of Northumberland, Northampton, and Pembroke, at a banquet which was to be given them by Lord Paget. His behaviour on the scaffold was dignified and composed; and perceiving a tumult about to take place, in his favour, he desired the spectators to be quiet and not interrupt his last meditations.

NOTES ON EDWARD THE SIXTH.

DURING the minority of Edward, the title of Protector was conferred on Seymour Duke of Somerset, the King's maternal uncle.

Seymour's first care, aided by the advice of Craumer (to whom we are indebted for the first translation of the Bible) was to advance the Reformation, of which the outline only had been drawn. The change was productive of alarm and disturbance throughout *twelve* different counties, and it was upon this occasion that *Lords lieutenants* were first appointed. Notwithstanding the disordered state of affairs, the Protector resolved upon a war with Scotland, for having violated an engagement to bestow on Edward the hand of their Queen. It was on this occasion, the Earl of Huntly said to Somerset "that he did not dislike the match, but hated the manner of wooing." The battle of Musselburgh followed, in which the English were victorious. After this defeat, the Scotch rallied, and, assisted by Henry the second, King of France, retook the fortified places, advanced as far as Newcastle, and in spite of the Protector, carried off great plunder. Among those who acted in opposition to Seymour's authority were his brother (who had married the dowager Queen, Catherine Parr) and Dudley, Earl of Warwick. The former died on a scaffold, and the latter succeeded in bringing the Protector to the block.

Warwick (afterwards created Earl of Northumberland) was now appointed to the regency. His first object was to make peace with France; and Scotland was included in the treaty. So entirely did the young King resign himself up to the direction of the new Protector (Northumberland) that he suffered himself to be prevailed on to disinherit his own sisters, (Mary and Elizabeth) and bequeath the crown to Lady Jane Grey, wife of Guildford Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland's fourth son.

Edward is commemorated as the founder of some of the most splendid charities* in the metropolis. In this reign, two witnessess were made necessary to the attainder of condemnation or persons accused of treason.

Notwithstanding the encomiums bestowed on Edward's character, Smollet asks, "How can we reconcile, either to his boasted humanity or penetration, his consenting to the death of his uncle who had served him faithfully; unless we suppose he wanted resolution to withstand the importunities of his ministers, and was deficient in that vigour of mind, which often exists independent of learning and culture?"

Edward kept a journal, which is preserved in the British Museum, and in which he regularly entered all the important transactions of his reign.

‡ Christ's Hospital, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell.

Private masses abolished; Images removed from churches; The liturgy corrected, and the present form of prayer established.

MARY,

DAUGHTER OF HENRY THE EIGHTH, BY CATHARINE OF ARRAGON,

[A. D. 1553.—*Reigned 5 Years.*]

Lo! bigotry's obnoxious brood,
 Bane of all that's great and good!
 Whence didst thou come? who gave thee birth?
 What Demon wafted thee to earth?
 Of human crimes enroll'd, the worst;
 Thou stand'st superlatively curst!!!

Mary, with vindictive joy,
 Seiz'd the first moment to destroy:
 —Surrounded by the flaming pile,
 Resign'd, the mitred martyrs smile;
 And Cranmer, with extended hand,
 Defies the torture of the brand!

Remorse, disquiet, and chagrin,
 Impale, by turns, the bigot queen;
 In pompous misery and state,
 Insulted by a husband's hate,
 A settled sorrow clos'd her days,
 And Smithfield-horrors ceas'd to blaze!

At the head of these persecuting measures were Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, and Bonner, Bishop of London. Five bishops, twenty-one clergymen, and above eight hundred others, suffered at the stake. Many died in prison, where every engine of torture was resorted to. Threats made hypocrites, and punishments made martyrs!

The active spirit of Northumberland, in behalf of Lady Jane Grey, was encouraged by the solemn assurance of the Privy Council that they would support him to the last extremity; yet, no sooner was Mary proclaimed Queen, than the very same members of the Council were base enough to sit upon him as Judges, and condemn him to die for a treason which they themselves had commissioned him to act!

NOTES ON MARY.

By the intrigues of Northumberland, the crown devolved to Lady Jane Grey ; a woman of superior accomplishments, and who accepted, with reluctance, the important trust, so disastrous to herself, as well as to the author of the project.

Mary was no sooner established on the throne, than she condemned her rival to death ; and though Lady Jane made a voluntary resignation of her fatal dignity, which she held but nine days, yet she was conducted to execution ; and, on the way, met the officers of the Tower, bearing the headless body of her husband, streaming with blood : she looked on the corpse without trembling, and, only with a sigh, desired to proceed. Her father, (the Duke of Suffolk) and her father-in-law (the Earl of Northumberland) were made the next victims of royal vengeance.

Mary, after signing a contract of marriage with Philip, (son of Charles the Fifth, Emperor and King of Spain) restored the supremacy of the Pope ; and in the next parliament, the whole nation, by their representatives, received absolution from the hands of Cardinal Pole.

It were endless to enumerate all the cruelties practised during this reign. Among the deposed Bishops, were Hooper, Ferrer, Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, who afterwards suffered at the stake. Barbarity on one hand, and patient constancy on the other, have so near a resemblance in cases of martyrdom, that a detailed narration would only become tedious by its uniformity.

The Queen, at the instigation of her husband Philip, engaged in a war with France. The victory of Saint Quintin followed. The loss sustained by the French in this battle was soon retrieved by the vigilant activity of the Duke of Guise, who undertook, in the depth of winter, the reduction of Calais, and succeeded in an enterprise that gained him the admiration of Europe. This event, added to the cold disdain of an insulting husband, and other concurrent causes, soon terminated Mary's short and inglorious reign. " When I am dead," said she to her attendants, " you will find Calais written on my heart."

Mary entertained so great a jealousy and hatred of Elizabeth, that upon the suppression of Wyatt's rebellion, she committed Elizabeth to the Tower, with the hope of discovering something which might involve her sister in the guilt of that conspiracy.

ELIZABETH,

DAUGHTER OF HENRY THE EIGHTH, BY ANNE BOLEYN,

[A. D. 1558.—*Reigned 44 Years.*]

ELIZABETH, of lofty mien,
Long rul'd the land, a favour'd Queen ;
Qualified alike to wield,
The sword, the sceptre, and the shield.

When the Armada launch'd from Spain,
Resplendent shone Eliza's reign !
Howard and Drake, their country's boast,
Repel invasion from the coast ;
—What tho' from Tyrone Essex fled,
Victory smil'd when Mountjoy led !

But, among deeds of high renown,
She dimm'd the lustre of her crown :
A rival Princess, north of Tweed,
Her jealous rancour doom'd to bleed,
Furnish'd with the fatal plea,
Of Babington's conspiracy :
—E'en on the traitor, Essex, wait, }
Dissembled love, capricious hate ; }
The *ring* secreted seal'd his fate. }

When Nottingham the truth confest,
What anguish wrung the royal breast !
O'erwhelm'd with bitterness of grief,
Death brought the wretched Queen relief.

Shakspeare ; Spencer, who wrote the *Fairy Queen*, and Sir Philip Sydney flourished.—East India and Turkey Companies established.

Among the nobility, who took an interest in Mary Queen of Scots, was the Duke of Norfolk. With the hope of rising to the British throne, he privately made overtures of marriage : the negotiation was carried on for some time with the utmost secrecy, till several love-letters of the Duke were intercepted, and fell into the hands of Elizabeth. Norfolk now formed a party in London, had a promise of assistance from the Pope, and also from the cabinet of Madrid. When buoyed up with expectation of success, his plots were discovered, and he perished on a scaffold.

The sentence of death passed on the unfortunate Mary, was severely reprobated by Leicester, Elizabeth's favourite adviser ; upon which the Queen asked him, "What she should do?" "Send an apothecary, madam, (replied Leicester) " and not a hangman ; if she must die, let it be done with decency."

Dudley, her chief minister (afterwards Earl of Leicester) was regarded by the Queen from capricious motives. The two favourites next in power were Bacon, and Cecil Lord Burleigh, men of great capacity. Cecil and Leicester fortunately declined an invitation to Paris, or they would have been cut off in the massacre of Saint Bartholomew.

NOTES ON ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH succeeded to rule over a people, whose passions had been inflamed, and whose principles had been corrupted, by the frequent changes in religion, and the rivalry of contending parties, through three preceding reigns. The leading characteristics of Elizabeth's administration were economy and vigour. Guided by an enlightened policy, she awed Scotland into submission, quelled a dangerous rebellion in Ireland, repelled a most tremendous invasion, made distant conquests, planted remote colonies, laid the foundation of a maritime power, and established that system of commercial intercourse, which has since penetrated into almost every province of the civilized world.

A tenderness for her people, a confidence in their affections, and a vigilant concern for the honour and interest of the nation, gave life and colour to Elizabeth's public conduct; and if a few equivocal marks of coquetry appeared on some occasions, they passed like flashes of lightning;—vanished as soon as they were discerned, and imprinted no blot on her character. She had private *friendships*, she had *favourites*; but she never suffered her friends to forget she was their Queen; and when her favourites approached to familiarity, the rebuking glance convinced them of their mistake.

Her treatment of Mary Queen of Scots, has fixed an indelible stain upon her memory. Mary, upon the death of her husband, the King of France, returned to Scotland; and after remaining a widow three years, bestowed her hand on Lord Darnley; a man of great personal accomplishments, but of ungovernable temper, and addicted to gross and licentious habits. Mary soon repented of the choice she had made, and the dark and suspicious mind of Darnley ascribed the change in her behaviour to the influence of a new passion. Rizzio, a musician, who shared the Queen's confidence, was selected as the object of his jealousy and revenge. The murder of the favourite followed,—partly executed in the presence of the Queen, at that time in a state of advanced pregnancy. This insult on her person, and the danger to which her life was exposed, while Rizzio clung to her for protection, were injuries too complicated to admit of pardon. Mary's resentment against her husband was implacable. Assisted by the Earl of Bothwell, a *new favourite*, the house in which Darnley slept, called the Kirk of Field, was blown up, and his body found in a neighbouring enclosure. The subsequent conduct of the Queen, who afterwards married Bothwell, affords a strong presumption of their mutual guilt. Bothwell ended his days in a dungeon on the coast of Norway; and Mary, after an imprisonment of 18 years, suffered at Fotheringay Castle for encouraging the conspiracy of Babington. Elizabeth played the hypocrite so far as to accuse Davison, her secretary, of having acted without her orders; and when told of Mary's execution, she gave way to the most frantic grief and astonishment.

JAMES I. OF ENGLAND, SIXTH OF SCOTLAND,
 SON OF MARY STUART, BY LORD DARNLEY, MARRIED ANN, DAUGHTER
 OF FREDERIC, KING OF DENMARK, BY SOPHIA OF MECKLENBURGH.

[A. D. 1603.—*Reigned 22 Years.*]

FROM barren soil, and mountains bleak,
 Came Stuart James*,—conceited,—weak;
 Beneath the axe see Raleigh† die,
 And Verulam‡ in penury!
 Each left behind a deathless name,
 Dear to learning,—dear to fame!

To flattery, and fav'rites‡ prone,
 Truth seldom reach'd the monarch's throne;
 Day after day, he pass'd his time,
 'Mid§ witchcraft, priestcraft, puns and rhyme.

The warning voice, which friendship gave,
 Rescued from explosion's|| grave,
 The solemn council of the state,
 Assembling to deliberate!

James, did his daughter's hand resign,
 To th' Elector Palatine¶;
 Direct from that alliance came,
 The origin of Brunswick's claim.

* The learned Buchanan was his tutor.

† Sir Walter Raleigh, and Lord Bacon.

‡ Villiers, afterwards Duke of Buckingham, and Carr, afterwards Viscount Rochester, and Earl of Somerset.

§ James wrote *Dæmonologia*, and also *A Counterblast to Tobacco*, in derision of Sir Walter Raleigh, who introduced the smoking of that weed into England. James wrote many other tracts equally contemptible.—*Vide Catalogue of Royal Authors.*

|| Sir Henry Piercy sent a mysterious letter to Lord Monteagle, which was shewn to the King. The latter discovered its meaning. Thirty-six barrels of gunpowder were found deposited in a cellar, and the conspirators were arrested.

¶ Through the indecision and folly of James, the elector Palatine, (his son-in-law) was deprived of all his dominions, including Bohemia. The fruit of this marriage was a daughter (Sophia) who gave birth to George the First.

Baronets first created in England.

NOTES ON JAMES THE FIRST.

INSTEAD of taking the Queen, whom he succeeded, for a model, James shewed the most marked contempt for her memory, her ministers, and her maxims. He neither wore the dress of mourning for her himself, nor permitted it in others. The titles and honours, of which his predecessor had been so judiciously sparing, were lavished by James with indiscriminate profusion. Soon after his accession, Sir Walter Raleigh was accused of a conspiracy to dethrone him; and this illustrious character, upon vague testimony, was condemned to die, and the sentence was embittered by the forfeiture of his estate. After having been detained a prisoner in the Tower twelve years, Raleigh was sent upon a fruitless expedition to South America, and, upon his return, was executed pursuant to his original sentence.

None of the King's minions contributed more to discredit him than Robert Carr, afterwards Viscount Rochester, and Earl of Somerset. Carr was detected in a criminal correspondence with the Countess of Essex. A divorce followed, and the lovers were married. Carr's friend (Sir Thomas Overbury), having strongly dissuaded him from this connexion, the vengeful and abandoned Countess, with the aid of her paramour, caused him to be poisoned. The deed was discovered, and several of the agents suffered death; but Carr and his Countess, although convicted upon the clearest evidence, were granted a life which became their punishment: their love turned to the most inveterate hatred; they lived in the same house without seeing each other, and the Countess died of a disease, for which no remedy or name could be found.

The place which Somerset held in the King's favour was filled soon after by George Villiers, who rapidly advanced, through a course of honours, to the Dukedom of Buckingham. During the remainder of *this* reign and the *next*, Buckingham continued to possess unrivalled influence, till assassinated by Felton. When Prince Charles, afterwards Charles the First, was sent upon a romantic expedition into Spain, to negotiate a marriage with the Infanta, the new favourite attended him. The match was abruptly broken off, because Buckingham, having fallen in love with the Duchess of Olivarez, took the opportunity of insulting the Duke her husband, who was prime minister. Charles afterwards married Henrietta of France, daughter of Henry the Fourth.

James endeavoured, but in vain, to establish episcopacy in Scotland. The same opposition was manifested by the Irish, who were forced from their altars, stript of their possessions, and harassed by penal laws for not violating the dictates of their conscience.

James's character with posterity is that of a solemn trifler, and a kind of ridicule is attached to his very name.

CHARLES THE FIRST,

SON OF JAMES THE FIRST, MARRIED HENRIETTA MARIA, DAUGHTER
OF HENRY THE FOURTH, KING OF FRANCE.

[A. D. 1625.—*Reigned 23 years.*]

CHARLES cherish'd from his earliest day,
Fond notions of despotic sway ;
Trying by sad experiment,
To rule without a parliament ;
But when the needy monarch tries,
By novel means to raise supplies *,
Hampden scorn'd the high behest,
And wild rebellion rear'd her crest ;
—From Marston-moor †, to Naseby's ‡ plain,
Unbroken was disaster's chain !

When panic-struck, and in disguise,
The fugitive from Oxford flies ;
—When faint with toil, a prey to grief,
From Newark's § foe he sought relief ;
Each tow'ring bastion seem'd to say,
“ Encamped around is treachery !
“ Who trusts his cause to rebel clans,
“ Erects an edifice on sands ! ”
—Charles did the warning voice despise,
And on the fatal scaffold dies.

* Buckingham advised these odious measures, who was afterwards stabbed by Felton.

† Marston-moor near York.

‡ Naseby, a village near Northampton. Here, Cromwell was second in command under General Fairfax, but took the lead in all essential points of influence.

§ Newark situated on the river Trent, Nottinghamshire ; it was here the unfortunate Charles, put himself into the hands of the Scotch army, (at that time closely besieging the town) and by whom he was sold, and given up to his worst enemies.

NOTES ON CHARLES THE FIRST.

No alterations took place, when Charles came to the throne. The same council, the same favourite, and the same ministers were continued. Upon his accession he found an empty treasury, and the nation involved in a war with Spain. He summoned a parliament which loudly expressed its dissatisfaction. Charles dissolved that assembly; issued privy seals, and made forced loans. But all these expedients did not relieve him from difficulties. Another parliament, was called, which, while it granted a meagre supply of money, presented a frightful catalogue of grievances. Next followed the impeachment of Villiers Duke of Buckingham, and the King was imprudent enough to commit the two managers of the impeachment to prison. A new parliament succeeded, but before they voted a *supply*, they presented a *petition of right*, which, on the part of the King, was assented to, and violated, almost at the same instant. The acts of the star-chamber, rigorously enforced, only added to the popularity of those who suffered by such extortion. The militia were called out to overawe the people, and keep them in subjection.

To procure money, the chartered companies were suffered to buy letters patent, enabling them to monopolize certain trades. The duties of tonnage and poundage were increased, and new impositions were laid on commerce. From the authority of the searching officer, no warehouse, vault, or desk, was exempt. The star-chamber encroached on the jurisdiction of other courts, and inflicted punishments beyond the usual course of justice. The tax of ship-money resisted by Hampden, and the threatened arrest of five members of the House of Commons, betrayed the King into measures, offensive to his subjects and fatal to himself. Scotland and Ireland were in a state of rebellion, and the impeachment of Stafford and Laud, who fell the victims of public hate, only served to lessen the declining power of royalty. After a long struggle, Charles became a prisoner, was tried for high treason, condemned, and executed.

Charles had considerable talents, but he shone more in *suffering* than in *acting*; and learnt too late, that the high maxims of prerogative, in which he had been educated, could not practically be maintained. Concession was necessary, but when did power concede willingly?

CROMWELL.

[*Interregnum from 1649 to 1660.*]

THE regicides at once decreed,
That Cromwell should the army lead;
Instantly he sallied forth,
Crush'd Ireland, subdued the North;
On Severn's banks he won the day,
And monarchy in ruins lay:
Blake with his thunder swept the main,
Chastis'd the Dutch, and humbled Spain;
Monk, with equal gallantry,
Led on his troops to victory!
'Tho' Penn and Venables deplore,
Miscarriage on Domingo's shore,
Yet Fortune, with capacious smile,
Gave them Jamaica's wealthy isle.

Cromwell, with success elate,
Assum'd authoritative state;
On visionary measures bent,
Dissolv'd the sitting parliament,
And from the refuse of mankind,
Form'd a senate to his mind.

Unawed by Cromwell's dread career,
Proud proofs of loyalty appear;
The blood of Derby*, and Montrose†,
For their suffering monarch flows.

At length, dejection, terror, care,
Bade Cromwell for his end prepare;
No covert-mask his faults can hide,
A hypocrite he liv'd and died!

* The Earl of Derby was written to by Cromwell, making advantageous offers provided his lordship would deliver up the Isle of Man. The Earl returned a spirited and laconic reply, of which the following is an extract; "I received your letter with indignation, and with scorn I return you this answer. From the principle of loyalty I am no way departed; I disdain your favours, I abhor your treasons, and I will keep this island to the utmost of my power to your destruction. Take this final answer, and forbear any farther solicitations; for if you trouble me with any more messages, I will burn the paper and hang the bearer.—DERBY.

† The sentence passed on the Earl of Montrose, was, that after execution, his head should be cut off, and stuck upon the walls of the prison, and his legs and arms distributed among the four chief towns of the kingdom. This nobleman exclaimed, with heroic and undaunted spirit, "I would rather have my head nailed to a gibbet, than have my portrait hang in the chamber of a villain. As to the disposal of my legs and arms, I wish I had limbs enough to be dispersed into all the cities of Christendom, there to remain as testimonies in favour of the cause for which I suffer."

NOTES ON CROMWELL.

IN civil contests, when an appeal is made to the sword, martial talents lay the foundation of pre-eminence. To these alone, Cromwell was indebted for his elevation. Having raised a body of a thousand horse, he soon made his regiment the best in the parliament service; and, at the outset of his career, instead of indulging low fanatical views, he displayed a master-mind, capable of applying to the best advantage the instruments and principles with which he was to act. In the army, commanded by the Duke of Manchester, he was made Lieutenant-general of the Horse; and at the battle of Marston Moor (which gave the first severe blow to the royal party) it is allowed that Cromwell's cavalry turned the fortune of the day. In the *self-denying* ordinance which professed to exclude the members of either house from holding commands in the army, Cromwell contrived to exempt *himself*. At the battle of Naseby, when Ireton's left wing had been beaten by Prince Rupert, Cromwell, by a timely charge secured the victory.

The next scene of Cromwell's exploits was Ireland, and so decisive were his campaigns against the Marquis of Ormond, that the towns of Drogheda and Wexford quickly surrendered, and were punished with almost unexampled severity for their resistance.

When the republican arms were to be directed against Scotland, Fairfax, a rigid Presbyterian, declined the command, and Cromwell reaped the benefit of his refusal. The battle of Dunbar followed, terminating in a total defeat of the Scots. Charles, who was strongly encamped at Stirling, now took the bold resolution of trying his fortune in England. Cromwell pursued the royal army, but they had reached Worcester before he overtook them. Here he obtained what was termed his *crowning victory*, and the King's forces were nearly annihilated.

On his return to London, Cromwell was received with the pomp of a conqueror, and soon after, with a vulgar mixture of rudeness and cant, he dissolved the *Long Parliament*, and summoned another by warrants under his own hand, consisting of 142 persons, and which, from the name of one of their members, was contemptuously styled the *Barebone's Parliament*. Aware that he was detested by every party in the kingdom, Cromwell was incessantly haunted by the terrors of assassination. To increase his calamity, a book was published, entitled "*Killing no Murder*." The spirited pamphlet fell into his hands, and Cromwell was never seen to smile afterwards.

In the compass of one year, no less than seven naval engagements distinguished the Protector's fleets. Almost every court in Europe sent to him their ambassadors, and solicited his friendship. Cardinal Mazarin, the favourite minister of Louis XIV., paid Cromwell particular deference; and the Jews sent a deputation to know whether he was not the Messiah!

RICHARD CROMWELL,

SON OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

[A. D. 1658.]

RICHARD'S accession to power was followed by every apparent testimony of attachment and affection. Lieutenant-general Fleetwood, in the name of the officers of the army of England; Monk, for those of Scotland; Sir Charles Coote, for Ireland, and Lockhart, for the garrison of Dunkirk,—all presented their congratulations, and vows of fidelity. The same pledge was given in behalf of the navy. The citizens of London followed the example. Foreign princes, and states were equally anxious to secure his alliance. The French ambassador presented him with two letters; one from the monarch, written by himself, the other from his eminency Cardinal Mazarin;—the contents of both, breathed the warmest assurance of devotion and support. Richard's first act was to refuse a petition from the army, desiring leave to elect its own generals.

A meeting was held at Wallingford-house; the result of their deliberation was, to this effect, namely, that the command of the army should be intrusted to some person in whom they might *all confide*; and it was plainly hinted, *that the young Protector was not that person*. His resignation followed: the old parliament called the Rump, which had beheaded the King, (and which Cromwell had treated so unceremoniously) was reinstated by the army; and its first object was to lessen that very power by which it had been replaced, enacting, that there should be no council of war held during its sitting.

While these transactions were going on, Monk was at the head of eight thousand veterans in Scotland. He put his army in motion, and by forced marches reached St. Alban's. His intention of restoring the King, was a secret he never once suffered to transpire. When the new parliament assembled, Monk sounded the disposition of many of its members, and at length sent them a message, that Sir John Granville was in waiting to deliver a letter from His Majesty to the Commons.

Nothing could exceed the joy and transport with which this message was received. Granville was called in, and the letter eagerly read. A moment's pause was scarcely allowed. The King's proposals were adopted, without a dissentient

RICHARD CROMWELL.

voice ; his subjects fondly anticipating a legitimate monarchy, which, like a phœnix, would appear more beautiful and vigorous from the ruins of its former conflagration.

When ordered to quit the palace of Whitehall, Richard Cromwell gave his servants strict orders to be very careful of two old moth-eaten trunks : a friend ventured to ask the *reason* of this particular solicitude ;—he replied, “ they contain no less than the lives and fortunes of all the good people of England ;” in other words, they were filled with addresses from every part of the kingdom ;—the signatures to which, promised to support him at the expense of all that was near and dear to them !

On his dismissal from the Protectorate, and after receiving an assurance that his debts should be paid, Richard withdrew to Geneva. Passing through Languedoc, he remained a short time at Pezenas, and, under a borrowed name, was introduced to the Prince of Conti. The conversation turning on the rapid changes which had taken place in the English government, the prince expressed his admiration of Oliver’s courage and capacity ;—“ but as for that poor pitiful fellow Richard,” said he, “ what has become of him ? How could he be such a blockhead as to reap no greater benefit from all his father’s crimes and successes ?” The anecdote is related by Hume, who adds, that Richard extended his peaceful and quiet life to an extreme old age, and died not till the latter end of Queen Anne’s reign. His social virtues, met with a recompense more precious and suitable than noisy fame, namely,—contentment and tranquillity.

In the decline of life, being engaged in a law-suit through the unnatural conduct of his own daughters, it was necessary that he should personally appear in one of the courts of Westminster-hall, where he was treated by the presiding judge, Lord Cowper, with particular marks of respect. As Richard was returning from this trial, curiosity led him to see the house of Peers, when being asked by a person to whom he was a stranger, “ if he had ever seen any thing like it before,” he replied, pointing to the throne, “ Never since I sat in that chair” !

About this time, George Fox, a shoemaker at Nottingham, founded the sect of Quakers.—Sir John Denham, author of *Cooper’s Hill* ;—Harrington, celebrated for his political romance of *Oceana* ; Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood ; Clarendon, admired as an historian ; and Selden, whom Grotius called the glory of England, were among the distinguished ornaments of this age.

CHARLES THE SECOND,

SON OF CHARLES THE FIRST.

[Crowned April 23, 1660.—Reigned 25 years.]

TWELVE years did Charles an exile roam
Destitute, without a home,
'Till Monk the monarch's part espous'd,
And to his claim the nation rous'd.

Charles, when restor'd, but ill-repaid,
The efforts in his favour made;
Not *flames* nor *pestilence* cou'd bring,
Reflection to the thoughtless King!

Tho' Breda's treaty,—Dunkirk's sale,
Furnish'd a disgraceful tale;
Tho' hostile ships, with lordly pride,
Plough'd the Medway's buoyant tide,
Still tipsy Joy, and frolic Sport,
Carous'd, and revell'd at his court.

Trusting a *Cabal** to rule,
(A term applied to folly's school)
Plots to counter-plots succeed;
Russel, Sydney, Stafford bleed.
Vile distrust, inveterate hate,
Their deadly venom circulate;
And public safety seem'd to rest,
On oaths, and sacramental test†!

Malignant as the signs appear,
How bright the *mental* atmosphere!
Newton, and Tillotson divine,
With Burnet, Hobbes, Locke, Shaftsb'ry, shine;
And Milton, Dryden, Otway, claim,
With Hudibrastic Butler's name,
A proud pre-eminence of fame‡! }

* The word is here used, as being formed from the initials of the following noblemen's names, Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, Lauderdale.

† The Test Act requiring all persons employed under government, to take certain oaths, and receive the sacrament, as a pledge of their fidelity to the state.

‡ Cowley and Waller may be added to the distinguished poets of this reign. The English fleet under the command of Prince Rupert, and Monk (now Duke of Albemarle) had an engagement with Admiral Ruyter, in which the English were worsted. In a subsequent engagement the English gained a complete victory, destroying above twenty Dutch men-of-war. Soon after, Sir Robert Holmes, burnt two men-of-war, and 150 sail of merchant ships belonging to the Dutch.

NOTES ON CHARLES THE SECOND.

CHARLES the Second, by a kind of volcanic impulse, was seated on the throne of England; and succeeded at once to all those regal prerogatives which it had cost the nation so much blood and confusion, first to abridge, and afterwards to abolish. Extreme were the exultations of his subjects at this event. The different civil and religious parties only vied with each other in loyalty and submission, and Charles entered his capital amid loud and universal acclamations. An act of indemnity was passed, excluding those only who were the principal actors in his father's death; among whom were Cromwell, Ireton, and Bradshaw. A settled revenue was made; the army was disbanded; and prelacy restored. Passive obedience, and non-resistance were the favourite doctrines of the pulpit. At the expiration of two years, Charles married the Infanta of Portugal with a portion of three hundred thousand pounds. His extravagance soon dissipated *that* sum, and the unpopular sale of Dunkirk was the *next* expedient resorted to for relief.

A rupture with Holland, France, and Denmark, followed. The Dutch fleet entered the Thames, and proceeding up the Medway, burnt and destroyed several ships at Chatham. A wasting plague, and a dreadful fire, which consumed a great part of the capital, were added to the disasters of this period. In 1667 peace was made with Holland, and though an alliance was formed to check the ambitious designs of the French King (Louis XIV.), Charles soon after, became a pensioner and tool in the hands of that very power which his subjects most dreaded.

The party-troubles of this reign originated from a declaration of the Duke of York (the King's brother, and presumptive heir to the crown) that he was a convert to the Roman Catholic religion. Divisions in the cabinet, rumours of plots, and assassinations, and parliamentary contests, exclusively agitated the public mind. A pretended conspiracy called the Rye-house plot, implicated the names of Lord Russel, and Algernon Sidney; who, upon the vague and contradictory evidence of a worthless nobleman (Lord Howard) were condemned and executed. Antecedent to this, was the Jesuits' plot, a fabricated tale of Titus Oates; in opposition to which appeared, the meal-tub plot, so called from the scheme of the conspiracy being found hidden in a meal-tub.

Among the remarkable events of this reign, may be mentioned the daring attempt of Colonel Blood (a disbanded officer of Cromwell) to carry off the crown and regalia from the Tower. He was not only pardoned, but Charles settled on him a pension of 500*l.* a year, and retained him near his person!

The writ of Habeas Corpus, hitherto cramped in its operations, was revived in full force, and no longer left to the arbitrary control of the Judges.

JAMES THE SECOND,

Brother of Charles the Second, married *first*, Lady Anne, daughter of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon and Lord-chancellor.—Eight children were the fruit of this marriage. Two daughters only lived to maturity, both of whom succeeded to the throne. The *second* wife of King James, was Maria Josepha of Este, daughter of the Duke of Modena, by Laurenza Martinozzi. By his last marriage, James had a son, called the “OLD PRETENDER,” who died at Rome in 1766, leaving issue two sons, viz., Charles, called the “*Young Pretender*,” and James, Cardinal of York.

[A. D. 1685.—*Reigned 4 years.*]

INTOL'RANT James in language loud,
Popish principles avow'd!
And England's doom'd once more to feel,
Bigotry's infuriate zeal!

When Monmouth's vanquish'd, and Argyle,
Terror electrifies the Isle!
Havoc and death begin their work,
Carv'd out by Jefferies, and Kirk:
—Demons, whose unrelenting hand,
Scourged with cruelty the land;
Trampling with a joy malign,
On laws both human and divine!
Not rank, nor sex, nor tott'ring age*,
Escap'd their mockery, and rage!

Welcome, the eventful hour,
Which terminates a tyrant's † pow'r!
Execrated through the realm,
James abdicates the regal helm!

* Lady Lisle, above eighty years old, was executed for humanely concealing two fugitives after the battle of Sedgmoor, and also another Lady by the name of Grant.

† In the library of the Scots College at Paris were found many curious manuscript anecdotes of the unfortunate James. Nostradamus, who died in 1566, has the following passage in his *Prophetical Centuries*:

Celui qui la principauté,
Tiendra par grande cruauté,
À la fin verra grande phalange
Porter coup de feu, tres dangereux.
Par accord pourra faire mienx;
—Autrement, boira *Suc d'Orange*.

He who by cruelty shall strive,
To keep authority alive,
Shall soon perceive a phalanx dread,
Envelope his devoted head!
—Better by moderation reign,
Or *Orange-juice* shall be his *Bane*!

NOTES ON JAMES THE SECOND.

A FONDNESS for arbitrary power, and an undisguised zeal for the church of Rome involved James in ultimate ruin. The Duke of Monmouth, a *natural* son of Charles the Second, rebelled against his uncle the reigning King, whom, in his manifesto he called a tyrant, and a popish usurper. Monmouth, after his defeat at Sedgmoor in Somersetshire, was taken, and executed. Those of his followers who escaped death in the field, were delivered over to the unrelenting rigour of Judge Jefferies; and the western towns were filled with mourning and dismay. So little did the royal mercy interpose, that James declared his approbation of these proceedings, by raising the Judge, first to the peerage, and next to the chancellorship; and giving to these assizes the jesting title of "Jefferies' campaigns." The Duke of Argyle, who had seconded the views of Monmouth in Scotland, proved equally unsuccessful, and after enduring many indignities, was publicly executed at Edinburgh.

James now granted a universal toleration. Tests were of no avail, and the army and council were filled with Catholics. A still bolder exercise of power followed. The King published a declaration of indulgence which was commanded to be read in all the churches. Against this ordinance, a petition was drawn up, and signed by seven bishops, who were immediately committed to the Tower, and soon after, tried, and acquitted amid the universal plaudits of a crowded court. The general rejoicing extended to the camp at Hounslow, and so unpopular was James become, that the birth of a son and heir, at this time, was considered as an *imposture* obtruded on the nation.

James had two daughters, Mary and Anne; the first married to William, Prince of Orange; the second, to Prince George of Denmark. After repeated invitations, William embarked for England. The royal army flocked to his standard by whole regiments, and even Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, did not hesitate to betray the King who had loaded him with favours. At last, abandoned by his own children, James saw himself reduced to a condition pitiable even by the meanest of his subjects. He abjectly fled from three powerful kingdoms, to exist upon charity, die in exile, and leave a posterity to become homeless wanderers upon the earth!

WILLIAM AND MARY.

MARY DIED OF THE SMALL-POX 1694, LEAVING NO ISSUE.

[A. D. 1689.—*Reigned 13 years.*]

SIXTEEN hundred eighty-eight,
 Revolutionized the state ;
 Mary, and William of Nassau,
 Restore religion, freedom, law.

James, by adverse fortune led,
 To the French Court for succour fled,
 And humbled by his fall'n state,
 Implored the long-liv'd Potentate*.

Say, what can forfeit-realms regain ?
 —The battle of the Boyne was vain ;
 Another at La Hogue took place,
 Involving Bourbon in disgrace ;
 And to intrepid William fell,
 Namur's† re-captured citadel !

Exhausted France now sues for peace,
 And wars, by Ryswick's treaty cease,
 Yet restless friends of exil'd James,
 Avow the *Son's mysterious* claims :
 William to arms indignant flies ;
 —When suddenly the monarch dies !

* Louis XIV.

† Though defended by Boufflers with 16,000 men, and Villeroy was coming up at the head of 100,000.

Among those who persevered in their attachment to the Stuart family were the highlanders, in whose favour a proclamation was published inviting them to accept a general amnesty before the expiration of the current year. On the last day of December 1691, Macdonald, Laird of Glenco, went to Fort William, and offered to surrender. The governor informed him that he must apply to a civil magistrate. This produced the unavoidable delay of a few hours ; but though in the interim, the time prescribed by the proclamation had expired, the sheriff at Inverary accepted his submission, and Macdonald returned in full confidence of security and protection. In February following, at the instigation of Sir John Dalrymple, secretary for Scotland, William signed a warrant of military execution against Macdonald, and his whole clan. Humanity sickens at a recital of the scenes which followed ; embittered too, by a breach of hospitality ! The Earl of Breadalbane did not escape suspicion, as being the author of this massacre from motives of personal enmity towards the Laird of Glenco.

NOTES ON WILLIAM AND MARY.

WHEN, on the abdication of James, a *regency* was proposed to the Prince of Orange, and a *transfer of the crown* to his wife, the crafty politician declined accepting the office of regent, and objected to the participation of a crown which must depend on the life of another. The parliament, though it conceded to his views of sovereignty, circumscribed and defined the royal prerogative; and the contract between prince and people, which had hitherto been a disputed theory, became a recorded fact, interwoven with the principles of British government. Triennial parliaments were soon after established, as the best security against arbitrary power.

War with France was always a primary object with William, and the concurrence of his new subjects was easily obtained for the humiliation of a dreaded foe. But the unexpected appearance of James in Ireland, where he received every mark of attachment from the Catholics, together with the disturbed state of Scotland, brooding over the massacre of Glenco, provided ample employment for all the disposable force the monarch could collect. The battle of the Boyne established William's military character, and the disasters which befel the French fleet at La Hogue seemed to annihilate every hope of James for the recovery of his crown.

Burning with impatience to embark in the continental war, William placed himself at the head of the grand alliance formed against France. Little advantage was gained on either side, till the recapture of Namur. The death of the Queen Consort, which happened about this time, plunged William into an excess of grief, hardly to be reconciled with the subdued feeling he manifested upon other occasions. This domestic loss of the sovereign, revived the spirits of the jacobites, and encouraged them to hope for the restoration of the exiled family. About this time Sir John Fenwick was executed for being concerned in a plot to assassinate the King as he returned from hunting.

After a series of wars, productive of no good to the belligerents, peace was concluded by the treaty of Ryswick. The pernicious practice of borrowing upon remote funds was resorted to; an expedient which has entailed upon the nation an increasing debt, now risen to a magnitude, awful to contemplate! But William scrupled not to employ the engines of corruption to gain his ends. In this reign the Bank of England was established; lotteries were introduced and stamp-duties imposed.

ANNE STUART,

SECOND DAUGHTER OF JAMES THE SECOND, BY Mrs. ANNE HYDE, MARRIED TO GEORGE PRINCE OF DENMARK; DIED WITHOUT ISSUE.

[A. D. 1702.—*Reigned 12 years.*]

UNION OF THE TWO KINGDOMS.

BRILLIANT was the reign of Anne!
Conquest her career began!
Britain, North and South, became,
Great by union; Great by name!

To distant realms the circling Sun,
Told the battles Marlborough won:
On the Danube's deepen'd course,
He thunder'd with resistless force,
And Blenheim's* mem'able day,
To future triumph led the way;
Malplaquet, Oudenarde, Ramillies,
Swell the list of victories!

Spain, with consternation, view'd,
Calpe's commanding rock subdued;
And from Valencia to Versailles,
Dread astonishment prevails!

Amid this tide of high renown,
Chang'd are the councils of the crown:
—Marlborough's imperious sway,
To female cunning falls a prey!
Sachev'rel raves with "Right Divine,"
Court-preacher, and a Catiline!

Tho' continental struggles cease,
And Utrecht† gave the nations peace,
Still Whig and Tory's party-zeal,
Corrupt the source of public weal.

* By this victory, a free and uninterrupted march was left open to the confederates from the Danube to the Rhine. Prince Eugene served under Marlborough in all his campaigns.

† Two years after this peace, died Louis XIV. (in September 1715), having reigned seventy-two years. He came to the throne when only four years old. In his reign was revoked the Edict of Nantz, the only security of the Protestants against persecution. After his first wife's death, Louis married Madam de Maintenon, widow of the celebrated Scarron. Mazarin was minister during his minority.

The cathedral church of Saint Paul finished by Sir Christopher Wren.

NOTES ON ANNE.

THE splendid and important events of this reign are to be ascribed rather to ministers and favourites, than to any decided superiority of character on the part of the Queen, who came to the throne with the same hostile disposition towards France as her predecessor. Louis XIV. had long cherished the hope of placing his grandson on the throne of Spain ;—a measure calculated to overthrow the balance of power so necessary to be kept up among the European states.

To resist the encroaching views of the French Monarch, war was declared, and Marlborough, by the managing policy of his wife, was appointed to conduct all operations both in the cabinet and the field. For several campaigns, Marlborough's victories on the continent were unexampled, though opposed to Villeroy and Tallard, two of the best generals in the French service.

Amid the rivalry of contending parties which disgraced the court of Anne, the influence of a new favourite (Mrs. Masham) led to Marlborough's dismissal, and the command of the English army in Flanders was transferred to the Duke of Ormond. This change was highly gratifying to the Tories, who had long looked with a jealous eye on the power possessed by Marlborough, and the Earl of Godolphin, his son-in-law. The treasures of the nation, it was said, had been lavished on conquests more glorious than serviceable. About this time, the loss of a battle near Almanza in Spain, where the English army were taken prisoners, tended to exasperate the public mind, and dispel the inebriation of former success. The Tories did not fail to exclaim bitterly at this reverse of fortune, while, Harley, afterwards Earl of Oxford, and Henry St. John, now created Earl of Bolingbroke, secretly fanned the flame. A quarrel ensuing soon after between these two candidates for royal favour, Bolingbroke prevailed, and the Lord-treasurer Oxford retired, meditating schemes of revenge, and new projects for his return to power. All was confusion at court, and the Queen, having no longer strength to bear up against the clamour of discontent which every where surrounded her, sunk into a state of insensibility, from which death alone relieved her.

This reign has been considered as the great age of English literature : and though Elizabeth could boast her Spencer, Shakspeare, Jonson, and Fletcher ; the reign of Anne produced Pope, Swift, Addison, and his friend Sir Richard Steele.

GEORGE (LEWIS) THE FIRST,

SON OF ERNEST-AUGUSTUS, ELECTOR OF HANOVER, BY SOPHIA, DAUGHTER OF FREDERIC, ELECTOR PALATINE, AND GRAND-DAUGHTER OF JAMES THE FIRST.

[A. D. 1714.—*Reigned 12 years, 10 months.*]

BEAMING from far, behold the day,
Which gave to Britain, Brunswick's sway !
Again the house of Stuart tries,
From prostrate monarchy to rise !

Where Scotland's cloud-capt hills appear,
See Mar* the rebel-standard rear ;
The rash Pretender's hopes are vain !
—His followers† dispers'd, or slain !

Impeachments‡, rancour, party-hate,
Gangrene the vitals of the state !
The South-sea project's fatal plan,
With wild infatuation ran,
'Till sudden burst the bubble-scheme,
And ruin mark'd delusion's dream !
Where once content, and comfort dwelt,
Sharp, biting, poverty is felt !

Parliaments extend their course,
Assuming a *septennial* force ;
And nations with *quadruple*§ chain,
League to punish haughty Spain.

* Mar had been Secretary of State, and had taken the oath of allegiance ; but on some disgust he retired to the Highlands, and joined the Marquises of Huntley, and Tullibardine, and the Earls of Nithisdale, Errol, Southesk, Carnwath, and Scaforth.

† Earls of Derwentwater, Kenmure, Wintoun, Widdrington, Home, Kin-noul, and about 200 other noblemen and gentlemen. The two first were beheaded on Tower Hill. Many others were executed, and transported, but the greater part received the benefit of an Act of Grace. Lord Nithisdale made his escape in woman's clothes the night before he was to have suffered. Foster also, eluding the vigilance of his keepers, reached the continent in safety.

‡ Lords Oxford, Bolingbroke, Ormond, and Stafford impeached as authors of the treaty of Utrecht. The two principal ministers of France and England were Flenry and Walpole. Addison was Secretary of State.

§ Germany, France, England, Holland.

The Riot-act passed. Inoculation first tried on criminals.

Russia, formerly a dukedom, established as an empire.

NOTES ON GEORGE THE FIRST.

HIGH in reputation for valour and natural good sense, though little acquainted with the character of the people over whom he was going to rule, George the First, threw himself into the arms of the Whig party, who, in the delegation of sovereign power, openly maintained the paramount superiority of the *national will*, over any claim derived from *hereditary right*. The recognition of such a principle could alone justify the change which had taken place in favour of the reigning family.

A short interval only had elapsed, when the late Tory ministry were called to account for their conduct ; particularly as it regarded the treaty of Utrecht, and several of the leaders were impeached, or driven into exile. Tumults arose in various parts of the kingdom, and, influenced by the Jacobites, the Earl of Mar set up the standard of rebellion in Scotland, and proclaimed the Pretender. After several actions attended with various success, the insurrection was quelled, and the scaffold was crowded with victims. Disaffection to the new family however still continued, and so alarming was its aspect, that the Whigs, repealing the act of William which made parliaments triennial, extended their duration to seven years, including *themselves* in this new-appointed prolongation. A measure so directly at variance with all the principles of the constitution, came with a peculiar ill grace from men professing popular maxims of government.

With affairs in this unsettled state it was natural for the King to regard his German dominions with predilection ; but even these were menaced by the hostile attitude of Charles XII. of Sweden, in conjunction with the Czar Peter. The interference of England in German politics now showed itself for the first time, and a fleet was sent into the Baltic to awe the Swedes, and suspend the relations of commerce. The death of Charles XII. put an end to alarm from that quarter, and secured George in the quiet possession of his German territory.

The ambition of the court of Spain, governed by the enterprising, and audacious spirit of Alberoni produced a quadruple alliance between England, and France, Holland, and Germany. The defeat of the Spanish fleet on the shores of Sicily, enabled the allied powers to dictate their own terms.

Towards the conclusion of this reign a conspiracy was discovered, in which Bishop Atterbury was concerned, and for which he was sentenced to perpetual banishment. Christopher Layer, a counsellor of the Temple executed at Tyburn for high treason.

GEORGE THE SECOND,

SON OF GEORGE THE FIRST BY SOPHIA DOROTHEA OF THE HOUSE OF ZELL, MARRIED WILHELMINA DOROTHEA CHARLOTTA OF BRANDENBURGH-ANSPACH.

[A. D. 1727.—*Reigned 33 years.*]

GEORGE the Second's sceptred hour,
Prov'd fatal to the Spanish pow'r ;
Lo ! on Panama's distant coast,
Vernon* realiz'd his boast ;
Anson, with his gallant crew,
Brought home the treasures of Peru ;
Clive, on Asia's burning soil,
Reap'd the fruit of hardy toil ;
Culloden†, Minden‡, and Quebec§,
Albion's trophied banners deck ;
Hawke, and Boscawen's squadrons ride,
Triumphant o'er the ocean's tide ;
And, on the pinnacle of fame,
At Dettingen|| stands George's name !

Reverse the scene,—view Lisbon's doom,
Lost in the earthquake's yawning tomb !
Or canst thou read with tearless eye,
Calcutta's deep-toned tragedy ?

* Vernon took Porto-Bello with six ships ; though his failure at Carthagena, produced such discontent that Walpole resigned, and was succeeded by Sir William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath.

† Near Inverness, where the Pretender's army was routed by the Duke of Cumberland.

‡ In the circle of Westphalia, where Prince Ferdinand defeated the French marshal Contades.

§ Canada, where fell the immortal Wolfe, and his adversary Marquis de Montcalm.

|| Here the King commanded in person, and gave proofs of valour, but not of judgment, for he would not suffer Lord Stair to pursue the fugitives, and turn the victory to the best advantage. Stair, in disgust gave up the command, and the allied army was intrusted to the King's second son, the Duke of Cumberland, in whom the *courage* of a soldier ill-compensated the want of *talent* as a general. Cumberland lost the battle of Fontenoy, and the French maintained an undoubted superiority in Flanders during the remainder of the campaign.

Admirals Matthews and Lestock with an inferior force, engaged the combined fleets of France and Spain. It was a drawn battle, and on that account, both admirals were tried. Matthews, who fought gallantly, was disgraced : Lestock, who had kept aloof was honourably acquitted because he had intrenched himself within the punctilios of discipline, he barely did his duty : a man of honour, when his country is at stake, should do more !

Admiral Byng shot for misconduct at Minorca.

NOTES ON GEORGE THE SECOND.

INHERITING his predecessor's attachment for German politics, the new King carried with him a corresponding prejudice into the British cabinet. By the treaty of Vienna, George the Second became a guarantee of the pragmatic sanction, or law by which females were to succeed to the hereditary dominions of Austria. When upon the death of Charles the Sixth, France was preparing to disinherit his daughter, an English army was sent to the Continent to support her cause, and the battle of Dettingen followed.

Early in this reign, Walpole introduced into Parliament the financial scheme of a great extension of the excise. Violent opposition compelled him to abandon the measure, though most of its provisions have been since adopted.

Disputes had long prevailed between the Spanish court, and England, respecting the right of cutting log-wood on the coast of Campeachy. The rapine and cruelty practised by the Guarda Costas of that settlement were loudly complained of by the British merchants, whose captured crews lay buried in the living sepulchre of the mines of Potosi. After ineffectual attempts to compromise the outrage, Walpole was reluctantly driven to hostilities, and Spain suffered in the contest.

The rash enterprise of the Pretender who landed in Scotland, (notwithstanding his success at Preston-Pans) was eventually most disastrous to himself, and fatal to his followers; and the young adventurer made his escape to France, after the battle of Culloden, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty and hazard. The treaty of Aix-la-chapelle in 1748, though censurable in many points, was welcomed as a relief from the burdens of war.

Between two such rival nations as France and England, friendship was not likely to be durable. In India they were almost constantly embroiled as allies to the contending native powers. But it was in the wilds of North America, amidst the undefined limits of impenetrable woods, and impassable morasses that a war was kindled, which afterwards spread to every quarter of the globe. For some time, events were unfavourable to England till the great William Pitt was called to direct the dormant energies of the state. Victories were now achieved in rapid succession. The French power in the East Indies was annihilated. In America, the reduction of Louisbourg was followed by *that* of Quebec, and the whole province of Canada. The island of Guadaloupe, the settlement of Senegal, and the battle of Minden, exalted the reputation of British valour. The navy of England reigned triumphant over the seas, while *that* of France, was reduced to insignificance. Still the war in Germany continued, and ministers were blamed for acquiescing in the supposed personal wishes of the King. In this state of affairs, George the Second, died suddenly from a rupture of the right ventricle of the heart.

GEORGE THE THIRD.

[*Began to reign 1760. Reigned 60 Years.*]

WHEN the Third George his reign began,
 (Lengthen'd to the latest span,)
 Proud victories were seen to smile—
 Manilla, Hindostan, Belleisle ;
 Havannah, Martinique, Lucie,
 Bow to British bravery !

But, where the vex'd Atlantic roars,
 Arm'd remonstrants* line the shores :
 Great Chatham to their cause inclin'd,
 And but in death that cause resign'd.

Junius, with appalling pen,
 Dragg'd Corruption from her den :
 Wilkes, for patriotism priz'd,
General warrants paralyz'd ;
 Incendiaries and bigots cry,
 Gordon's war-whoop, " No Popery !"

With enterprising sail unfurl'd,
 Cook circumnavigates the world ;
 Discovering land in distant climes,
 Since coloniz'd with *convict* crimes.
 Where Ganges rolls the Hindû stream,
 Bright deeds of British† valour gleam !
 Where raging hurricanes arise,
 De Grasse, by Rodney vanquish'd, lies.

* American War:

† Hastings, Cornwallis. To the former we owe the preservation of our Eastern Settlements on the coast of Coromandel, at that disastrous period when Hyder Ally spread terror and consternation to the gates of Madras.

GEORGE III. CONTINUED.

Lo ! shrouded in sepulchral shade,
The pride of list'ning Senates laid !
Mansfield's, Dunning's, Thurlow's mind,
Forensic energies combin'd.

Rous'd from slumb'ring reverie,
North charm'd with wit and repartee :
Fox, with bold impassion'd sense,
Pour'd the flood of eloquence ;
—Rivals, bitter in debate,
Coalesc'd to rule the State !
Till Pitt, the terror of his foes,
The star of British council, rose !

Burke, Wyndham, Sheridan, impress'd
Their vivid flashes on the breast !
—Sheridan ! whose Attic taste,
Alike the Stage and Senate grac'd !
Inscribe on Whitbread's honour'd bust,
“ *The man who ne'er betray'd a trust !*”
With these, embalm'd, shall Grattan live,
The proudest record *Fame can give !*

With Revolution's bursting flame,
Anarchy and carnage came !
Tocsins peal'd with loud alarms ;
Towns, cities, hamlets, flew to arms,
And, buckling on the cuirass rude,
Assum'd a fearless attitude !
Britain, unmov'd and undismay'd,
Stood, till the wasting plague was stay'd,
—And Waterloo's decisive blow,
Seal'd Napoleon's overthrow !

Come, bind with wreaths the laurel'd brow,
Of Nelson, Jarvis, Duncan, Howe !
On Egypt's parch'd and barren sands,
Follow Abercrombie's bands ;

GEORGE III. CONTINUED.

And on Corunna's fatal shore,
Lament the sufferings of Moore !
Plant with cypress Walcheren's grave,
Where by fevers fell the brave !
Mourn Perceval's untimely fate,
(Victim of revengeful hate !)
Drop the unavailing tear,
With Leopold, o'er Charlotte's bier ;
—The nation's hope ; the nation's pride
Ador'd she lived ! lamented died !

Bereft of Reason's guiding ray,
Enfeebled long the monarch lay ;
In visual and mental gloom,
He sunk exhausted to the tomb !

GEORGE THE THIRD,

GRANDSON OF GEORGE THE SECOND.

[A. D. 1760.—*Reigned 60 years.*]

Married the Princess CHARLOTTE of MECKLENBURGH STRELITZ, by whom he had issue, nine sons, and six daughters.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERIC, his present Majesty born August 12, 1762. Married April 8, 1795 to the Princess Caroline of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, by whom he had issue, Charlotte Augusta born January 7, 1796, married to Leopold Prince of Saxe-Coburg. She died November 6, 1817.

Frederic, Duke of York, born August 16, 1763, married September 29, 1791, to Frederica Charlotte Ulrica Catharine, eldest daughter of the King of Prussia, who died August 6, 1820.

William Henry, Duke of Clarence, born August 21, 1765, married July 11, 1818, the Princess of Saxe-Meiningen, by whom he has issue, the Princess Elizabeth, born December 10, 1820.

Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Princess Royal of England, born September 29, 1766, married May 18, 1797 to the King of Wirtenburgh.

Edward, Duke of Kent, born November 2, 1767, married May 29, 1818, the Princess Dowager of Leiningen, by whom he had issue the Princess Alexandrina. His Royal Highness died January 23, 1820.

Princess Augusta Sophia, born November 8, 1768.

Princess Elizabeth born May 22, 1770, married April 7, 1818, the Prince of Hesse Homburgh.

Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, born June 5, 1771, married, May 29, 1815, Frederica Sophia Caroline, daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, and has issue, a son.

Augustus Frederic, Duke of Sussex, born January 27, 1773.

Adolphus Frederic, Duke of Cambridge, born February 24, 1774, married May 7, 1818, the Princess of Hesse, and has issue, a son.

Princess Mary, born April 25, 1776, married July 22, 1816, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

Princess Sophia, born November 3, 1777.

Prince Octavius, born February 23, 1779, died May 3, 1783.

Prince Alfred, born September 22, 1780, died August 20, 1782.

Princess Amelia, born August 8, 1783, died October , 1810.

CHRONOLOGY

OF THE

REIGN OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

1760.

PARLIAMENT settled the annual sum of eight hundred thousand pounds upon the King, for the support of his household, and the honour and dignity of his crown, or, as it is usually called, the Civil List.

1761.

The royal marriage and coronation. Secret alliance discovered between France and Spain; Mr. Pitt and the Earl of Temple were for hostilities; the proposition was negatived, and they retired from office; on Mr. Pitt was settled a pension of three thousand a year for three lives, and his lady was created Baroness of Chatham; war afterwards declared.

1762.

The Duke of Newcastle sent in his resignation as first lord of the treasury, which was bestowed on Lord Bute. Manilla and the Havannah taken, with many other places of minor importance.

1763.

Peace restored. The national debt one hundred and forty-eight millions.

1764.

Lord Bute resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. George

Grenville. A paper, called the North Briton, conducted by Wilkes, the author commenting with too much freedom on the King's speech, is sent to the Tower ; after his release, not appearing to the indictments preferred against him, he was run to an outlawry ; general warrants declared illegal by a resolution of both houses.

1765.

Stamp act imposed on the American colonies. The Grenville administration forced to give way for that of the Marquis of Rockingham.

1766.

The Duke of Grafton made first lord of the treasury in the room of the Marquis of Rockingham ; Mr. Pitt is created Earl of Chatham ; accepts the office of keeper of the privy seal, and forms the present ministry. Affairs of the India Company embarrassed by the rapacity and extortion of its servants ; Lord Clive sent out, and concluded an advantageous treaty with the Mogul.

1767.

The colony of New York refuse to furnish his majesty's troops with necessaries in their quarters, pursuant to an act passed in the British House of Commons ; and afterwards, the Americans forbid the importation of European commodities, or rather those of British growth and manufacture.

1768.

A new parliament called ; Mr. Wilkes returned for the county of Middlesex, though the sentence of his outlawry remained in full force ; the legality of his seat confirmed ; surrenders himself to the court of King's Bench, by whom the outlawry was reversed, and he was sentenced to suffer an imprisonment of two years, and pay a fine of a thousand pounds ; subscriptions were successfully opened for his re-

lief, and for the payment of his debts, amounting to twenty thousand pounds or more.

1769.

In the expectation that Wilkes would take his seat in the House, a vast concourse of people assembled in St. George's Fields; the riot act was read, the military were called out, and one man lost his life; the magistrates were thanked for their spirited conduct in a public letter, which Wilkes commented on with so much severity that he was expelled the House; the freeholders of Middlesex re-elected him, but his election was declared void, and Colonel Luttrell was returned as the legal member, though Wilkes had a great majority of votes.

1770.

The Grenville Act passed for regulating controverted elections; Lord Chatham and the Duke of Grafton resigned. Lord North came into power;—during his administration the American war was begun, conducted without prudence, and concluded without honour or advantage. The French were quietly suffered to make a conquest of Corsica. A rupture to be apprehended with Spain on account of Falkland's Island, and which drew from the pen of Dr. Johnson an admired pamphlet.

1771.

A messenger of the House of Commons came into the city, and took a printer into custody for publishing debates connected with the Middlesex election; the parties were brought before the lord-mayor, (Crosby,) who, with Alderman Oliver and Wilkes, discharged the printer, but held the messenger to bail, for daring to execute a writ in the city, without an order from the magistrate; the two former, as members of the House, were ordered to attend in their place, and were sent to the Tower where they remained till

the end of the session; Wilkes refused to appear, unless he was permitted to take his seat for Middlesex. In India, a famine carried off ten millions of people, one-third of the inhabitants; the calamity was increased by the company's servants buying up the rice, the chief or almost the only food of the natives, (the Pythagorean system prohibiting them the use of animal food.)

1772.

A bill was passed, enacting that the members of the royal family shall be incapable of contracting marriage, without the previous consent of the King, or his successors on the throne, signified under the great seal, and declared in council. An alteration was made in the criminal law of the kingdom. Felons refusing to plead, were to be adjudged guilty of the crimes laid to their charge, instead of being sentenced to expire under an incumbent weight. The dismemberment of Poland by the Emperor of Germany, the King of Prussia, and the Empress of Russia. Revolution in Sweden and Denmark. The latter was effected through the intrigues of the Queen Dowager, and the King's half brother Prince Frederic; Struenzee and Brandt brought to the block; even the Queen Consort Matilda, sister to his Britannic Majesty narrowly escaped with her life; she died a few years after at Zell in Germany; a supreme court of judicature established at Bengal, consisting of a chief justice, and three inferior judges.

1773.

Considerable emigrations to America from Ireland and Scotland. Captain Cooke engaged in sailing round the world a third time, is murdered by the natives of Owhyhee. The American colonies deny Great Britain the right of taxation, showing determined resistance, particularly at Boston.

1774.

The fire which had been kindled so long between this country and America now broke out into an open flame ; General Gage had a skirmish with a provincial force at Lexington ; he retreated to Boston, which was soon after blockaded by twenty thousand native militia ; the congress approved of the steps that had been taken, and passed a resolution, declaring that the compact between the crown, and the people of Massachusetts Bay, was dissolved ; General Gage published a proclamation of pardon to all, excepting Hancock and Adams, upon which the Congress immediately chose the former for their president.

1775.

The battle of Bunker's Hill, where the enemies rifle corps did great execution among the British officers ; Mr. Washington, one of the delegates for Virginia, appointed to be commander-in-chief of all the American forces.

1776.

General Howe evacuated Boston ; unsuccessful attack upon Charlestown, South Carolina, by General Clinton, and Sir Peter Parker ; the Americans publish their famous declaration of independence, and obtain some advantages on the Delaware ; France and Spain open their ports to American privateers, suffering them to dispose of the rich prizes taken from British merchants, and supplying the enemy with warlike stores, and able engineers.

1777.

Dr. Dodd executed for forgery. Engagement between Washington and Howe on the banks of the Brandywine river, in which the enemy were obliged to yield to the superior discipline of the English troops ; General Burgoyne capitulates to the Americans at Saratoga, and with his army embarks

for England ; Lord Pigot Governor of Madras, while executing the orders of the directors, was seized and imprisoned by the leading members of the council ; his high sense of feeling could not brook the indignity, and he died soon after.

1778.

The French openly espoused the cause of America, and though war had not been formally declared between Great Britain and France, fleets were fitted out on both sides ; d'Orvillers commanded the French squadron, Admiral Keppel the English ; a running fight took place, but no decisive action ; Keppel was accused of not having done his duty ; he was tried on a charge brought against him by Palliser (the second in command) but was honourably acquitted ; Palliser was tried for disobedience of orders, and was partly acquitted and partly condemned ; died the celebrated Earl of Chatham.

1779.

Commissioners sent out to compromise with America ; overtures of a pecuniary nature having been made to Mr. Reed, an American general, to promote the desired reconciliation, he replied, " I am not worth purchasing, but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it." The King of Spain follows the example of France in acknowledging the independence of the American colonies.

1780.

Mr. Burke introduced a bill for curtailing public expenditure ; Admiral Rodney defeats a Spanish squadron and Don Langara, off Gibraltar ; the reduction of Charlestown, by Sir Henry Clinton, and the defeat of General Gates by Lord Cornwallis ; disgraceful riots in London, arising from some indulgences granted by parliament to Roman Catholics ; Lord George Gordon tried and acquitted.

1781.

A desperate engagement off the Dogger-bank between Admiral Hyde Parker, and Admiral Zoutman, which ended in a drawn battle. Earl Cornwallis, in Virginia, surrenders himself and his army to General Washington. Victory over Hyder Ally, and the Mahrattas, by Warren Hastings.

1782.

Unsuccessful attack of the Spaniards upon Gibraltar. Change in the ministry, at the head of which was the Marquis of Rockingham, Lord John Cavendish, Mr. Fox, Lord Shelburne, Mr. Burke, and the Duke of Richmond; Lord Thurlow was the only member in the late cabinet, who retained his situation; death of the Marquis of Rockingham, who was succeeded by the Earl of Shelburne; the appointment of this latter nobleman, avowedly hated by Mr. Burke, led to the resignation of Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish and others; Rodney's victory over De Grasse; the independence of America acknowledged.

1783.

Coalition between Mr. Fox and Lord North: Mr. Fox's bill, for regulating the affairs of India, excited so strong an opposition, that the author withdrew from the cabinet; Lord Temple, and Mr. Pitt came into office.

1784.

Peace with Holland and America; commemoration of Handel. The royal assent given to Mr. Pitt's East India bill. Death of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

1785.

Mail-coaches established; Mr. Pitt's proposition for a reform in parliament negatived.

1786.

A wretched female maniac attempts the life of the King. a colony established in New Holland, for the reception of convicts.

1787.

Treaty of navigation and commerce with France. Impeachment of Warren Hastings; England and Prussia unite to prevent France from assisting the Dutch malcontents, and the Stadholder is established in the government of the united Provinces.

1788.

Died, at Rome, Prince Charles Lewis Casimir Stewart, the Pretender, who headed the rebellion in 1745. Treaty of defensive alliance between Great Britain, Prussia, and the States-general of Holland. Indisposition of His Majesty, in November; the Prince of Wales appointed Regent, with limitations and restrictions.

1789.

On the 10th of March was announced the King's recovery; the 22d April was observed as a day of thanksgiving; his Majesty (attended by the whole royal family), went to St. Paul's church in state, and was greeted with unbounded tokens of loyalty and affection; in the evening, the most universal and splendid illuminations ever known.

1790.

Aggression of the Spaniards at Nootka Sound, by their seizure of two vessels belonging to his Majesty's subjects, and navigated under the British flag; an immense armament was prepared to resent the insult; but in November, a convention was ratified at the palace of the Escorial, and a right established permitting British vessels to carry on a whale-

fishery in any part of the Pacific Ocean, or of the Southern Seas, or form settlements on any part of the coast of America not already occupied; Tippoo Saib, the son and successor of Hyder Ally, disturbs the British possession in the East; hostilities continued for two years, at the end of which (in 1792) Lord Cornwallis invested Seringapatam, and the Sultan was compelled to accept ignominious terms of peace.

1791.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Fox, declaratory of the power of jurors, enabling them to be judges both of the law, and of the fact; the King and Queen of France, attempting to make their escape, are stopped at Varennes, and brought back to Paris; Mr. Wilberforce's bill prohibiting the further importation of slaves into the British colonies was lost; a fleet was prepared to act against Russia, then at war with the Ottoman Porte; but the measure was shortly after abandoned; marriage of the Duke of York, at Berlin.

1792.

A bill for the gradual abolition of the slave trade was passed by the Commons, but rejected by the Lords; the French revolution; by which the King was deposed, and put to death, and monarchy abolished; the Duke of Brunswick's unfortunate campaign in France; success of General Dnmourier at Jemappe.

1793.

The French national convention declared war against the King of Great Britain: the latter entered into alliance with Prussia and Germany for the restoration of the Bourbon family; decapitation of the French King; British troops under the command of the Duke of York, and in conjunction with the allies, besieged and took the city of Valenciennes; defeat of the English at Dunkirk; the Queen of France

beheaded; the fleets of England and Spain made themselves masters of Toulon, but it was afterwards given up.

1794.

To resist a threatened invasion, armed associations were formed in every part of the kingdom; on the 2d of June, Earl Howe obtained a signal victory; in the East and West Indies, the British took possession of the colonies and settlements of the enemy; dissensions among the allies, and the evacuation of Flanders.

1795.

The war continued with various success; defection of the King of Prussia; Lord Bridport won a naval battle off l'Orient; marriage of the Prince of Wales; the King, in a message to parliament, intimated a willingness to negotiate with the French executive power, the overture was unsuccessful; capture of the Cape of Good Hope; conclusion of Hastings's trial.

1796.

A revolution in the United Provinces, by which they became the allies of France; Spain followed the example; a second attempt at negotiation was made through Lord Malmesbury, but equally as unsuccessful as before.

1797.

The bank restrained from making payments in specie; Sir John Jervis defeats the Spanish fleet off Cape St. Vincent, and obtains the title of Earl St. Vincent; a mutiny among the seamen of the fleets then lying at Spithead, and the Nore; victory over the Dutch fleet off Camperdown, by Admiral, afterwards Lord Duncan; a third unsuccessful attempt was made for negotiating with the ruling power of France at Lisle; death of Edmund Burke and John Wilkes.

1798.

Buonaparte and the French fleet sail to Egypt; battle of the Nile; rebellion in Ireland, which rendered the measure of a union desirable, and which was carried into effect the following year.

1799.

Siege of Acre by Buonaparte, and heroically defended by Sir Sidney Smith; the Duke of York made an unsuccessful attempt on Holland, assisted by Sir Ralph Abercrombie; war in India; death of Tippoo; Buonaparte returns from Egypt, and writes a letter to the King of Great Britain.

1800.

Battle of Marengo; the King fired at in Drury-Lane Theatre by Hatfield.

1801.

Denmark, Sweden, and Russia unite with France in an armed neutrality: Denmark having refused to withdraw from the Northern alliance, Copenhagen is bombarded by Lord Nelson; the French government prepare to attack Portugal; an expedition planned against Egypt, and the command given to Sir Ralph Abercrombie; a general action took place in which the British troops were successful, but in which Sir Ralph Abercrombie fell; Major-general Hutchinson succeeds to the command; Cairo surrenders; Alexandria capitulates, and the French evacuate Egypt; Mr. Pitt retires from office; Mr. Addington becomes his successor; Peace of Amiens.

1802.

Abbot chosen speaker in the room of Sir John Mitford, appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland, with the title of Lord Redesdale.

1803.

Message from his Majesty on the hostile preparations of France and Holland; curious conversation between the First Consul and Lord Whitworth; hostilities recommenced, and Buonaparte threatens to invade England.

1804.

Death of the Duke d'Enghien; Addington resigns, and Pitt succeeds him; War declared by the Spaniards against England; Buonaparte crowned Emperor of the French.

1805.

Buonaparte addresses a letter to the King, an answer is returned by Lord Mulgrave; an alliance concluded between England, Austria, Russia, and Sweden; battle of Trafalgar; death of Lord Nelson.

1806.

Battle of Austerlitz; death of Mr. Pitt; a new administration formed; Lord Grenville appointed first lord of the treasury, Mr. Fox secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Mr. (now Lord) Erskine Lord High Chancellor; abolition of the slave trade; death of Mr. Fox; defeat of the Prussian army at Jena; treaty at Tilsit between Russia and France.

1807.

A bill in favour of the catholics (having passed both Houses of Parliament) was presented for the royal signature; this the King not only refused, but wished his ministers to declare they would abandon the measure for ever; they declined, and, on the resignation of Lord Erskine and others, Lord Eldon, the Duke of Portland, and other friends of the late Mr. Pitt, supplied their places; Buenos Ayres, through the misconduct of General Whitelock, left in possession of the enemy.

1808.

An expedition (under the command of Lords Gambier and Macartney,) subdued the Danes; the regent of Portugal unwilling to accede to the proposals of Napoleon, (by shutting his ports against the British,) withdrew to the Brazils, and remained under the protection of the English; the Spanish monarch was prevailed on to abdicate in favour of his son, who was made prisoner by Buonaparte, and Joseph (Napoleon's brother) placed on the throne of Spain; a powerful force, commanded by Sir Arthur Wellesley, sent by the English to the assistance of the peninsula; Loison, the French general, defeated at Roleia; also Junot at Vimeira; with this last a treaty was concluded; Denmark (assisted by England) declared war against Sweden; Russia sent an army into Swedish Finland, which was soon ceded to the Emperor Alexander.

1809.

Sir John Moore (after many hardships) obtained a victory over the French forces at Corunna, but lost his life in the engagement. Buonaparte defeated the Austrians, and compelled them to make peace on his own terms; Sir Arthur Wellesley, having defeated the French, and driven them from Portugal, pursued them to Talavera, where he obtained a brilliant victory, and, for his transcendent bravery, was created Viscount Wellington; a general jubilee was observed in the United Kingdom on George III. entering the fiftieth year of his reign; Walcheren and Flushing surrendered to Lord Chatham and Sir Richard Strachan; various naval successes obtained by Lords Gambier, Cochrane, Collingwood and Sir James Saumarez; the reduction of some important islands in the West Indies also took place this year.

1810.

Buonaparte married Maria Louisa, daughter of the Em

peror of Austria; the crown-prince of Sweden died, and Bernadotte, a general of Buonaparte's, succeeded him; Holland annexed to France; Lord Wellington obtained a victory at Busaco; death of the Princess Amelia; the King again attacked by his former malady.

1811.

The Prince of Wales appointed Regent under certain restrictions; General Graham obtained a victory at Barrossa; Sir W. Beresford gained the battle of Albuera.

1812.

The restrictions on the regency bill withdrawn; Lord Castlereagh appointed secretary of state for foreign affairs; the assassination of Mr. Perceval by Bellingham, and Mr. Vansittart appointed chancellor of the exchequer in his place; the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos; evacuation of Portugal by the French; the army, under the command of Lord Wellington, enter Madrid, having first gained a decided victory at Salamanca; an alliance between England and Russia; Moscow burnt; war declared by the Americans; a treaty concluded between England and Russia with Prussia; the battle of Vittoria; the forts of San Sebastian and Pampeluna surrender to the British arms.

1813.

The battle of Dresden; death of General Moreau; battle of Leipsic.

1814.

The allies enter Paris; Buonaparte signs his abdication, and retires to Elba; the city of Washington taken and burnt by the British; peace confirmed between England and France; arrival in England of the Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia; peace with America.

1815.

Napoleon Buonaparte, having escaped from Elba, landed in France, and marched to Paris, which he entered without opposition, the Bourbon family having previously fled from the capital; battle of Waterloo, and defeat of Napoleon, who is banished to St. Helena; the allies re-enter Paris; Louis XVIII. returns, and is again restored to his crown; death of Mr. Whitbread.

1816.

War in India successfully terminated under the command of the Marquis of Hastings; marriage of the Princess Charlotte of Wales with the Prince of Saxe-Coburg; Algiers bombarded by an English and Dutch fleet, and the Dey compelled to abolish Christian slavery; death of Mr. Sheridan.

1817.

Serious riots in the manufacturing districts; suspension of the Habeas Corpus act; trials for high treason; death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales.

1818.

The French territory evacuated by the allied army of observation; death of her Majesty Queen Charlotte.

1820.

Death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; death of His Majesty George III.

THE END.

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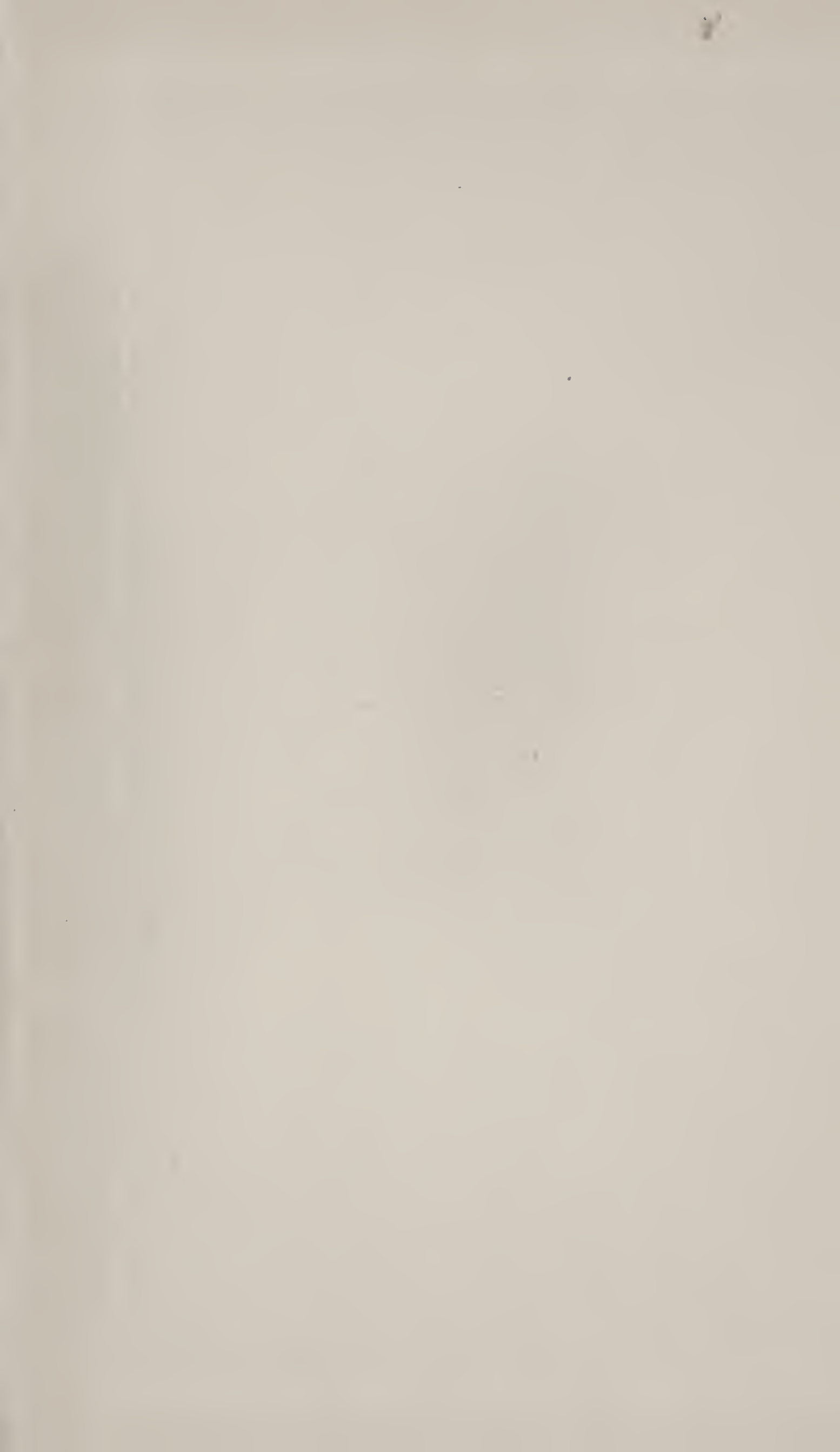
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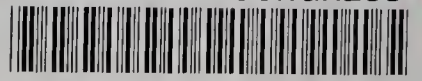
- 16 3 *for* reigned 86 years, *read* 56 years.
- 20 8 *for* hourly his sufferings increase, *read* his sufferings
hourly increase
- 25 31 *for* varicious, *read* avaricious.
- 26 the last line of the foot notes, *for* Henry married Lady
Catherine Swynford, *read* Henry's father mar-
ried Lady Catherine Swynford.
- 43 31 *for* or, *read* of.
- 48 13 *for* counsel, *read* council.
- 52 13 *for* capacious, *read* capricious.
- 65 32 *for* Germon, *read* German.

43

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]



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